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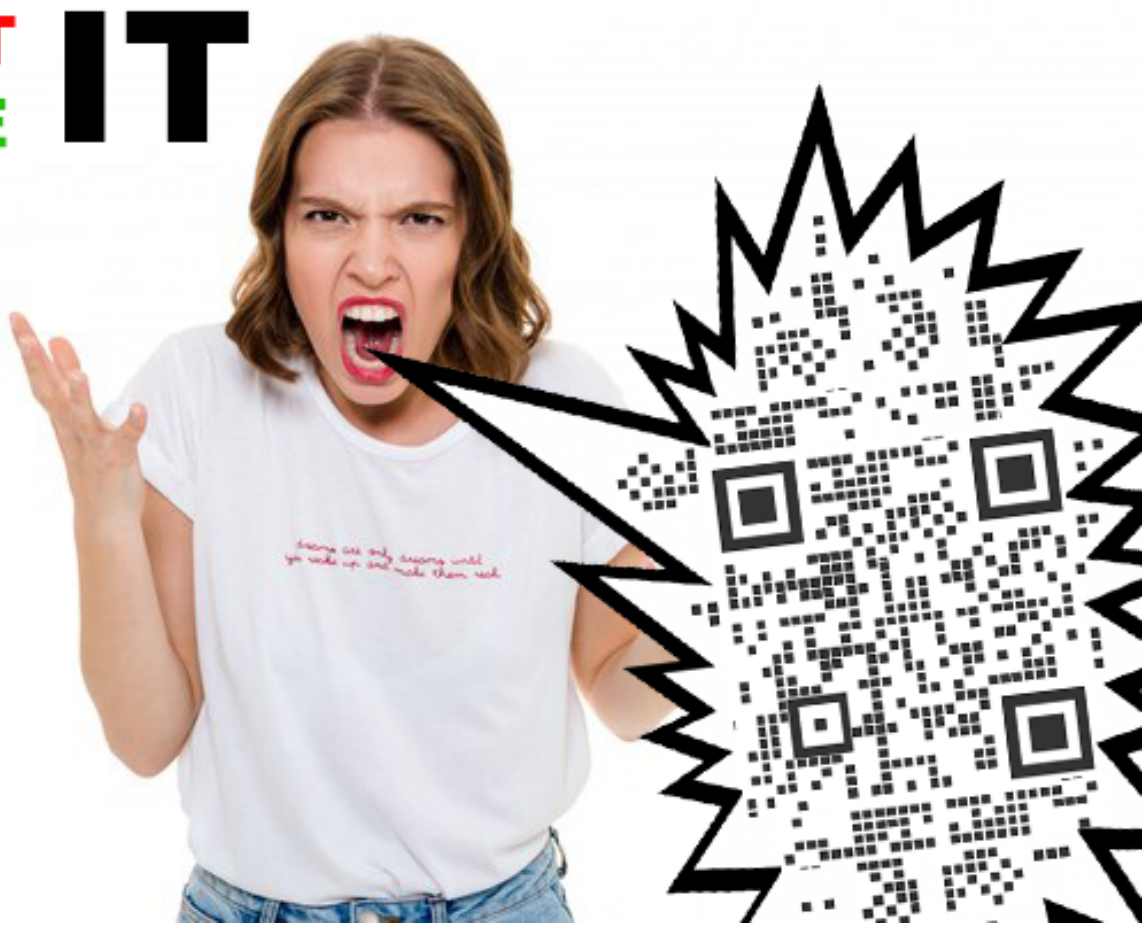

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BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

BRITISH MUSEUM NATURAL HISTORY

EDITED BY

DR. G. CARMICHAEL LOW.

VOLUME LXII.

SESSION 1941–1942.

LONDON:

H. F. & G. WITHERBY, 326 HIGH HOLBORN, W.C. 2.

1942.

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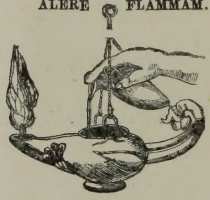

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PREFACE.

THE past Session, 1941–1942, has continued an abnormal one. At the Annual General Meeting, held on October 18, 1941, a discussion took place as regards further meetings of the Club and the dates and times of such meetings, if the war conditions at present prevailing admitted. It was finally decided to hold the meetings on Saturday afternoons if possible, as was done in the Session 1940–1941, and to aim at having a similar number of meetings, namely, five in all. This arrangement again worked well, and the Club met in October (Annual General and ordinary Meeting), December, February, April and June (the latter in conjunction with the British Ornithologists' Union, in place of their usual Annual General Meeting in March).

The number of attendances for the Session was better than in 1940–1941, viz., a total of 142 in place of 110, this being made up as follows :—96 members of the Club, 9 members of the B.O.U., 1 guest of the Club and 36 other guests, a total of 142.

There was no Chairman's Annual Address this year.

Mr. James Fisher gave a very interesting paper on " The Birds of Rockall as shown by photographs and observations taken by the Royal Air Force," and by kind permission of the Coastal Command four of these photographs were allowed to be produced in the ' Bulletin '. Dr. Jul. Borucki talked to the Club on " The Preservation of Nature in Pre-war Poland ", and one must look forward to the time when Poland will come into its own again and carry on the excellent work described in the paper. Mr. David Lack discussed the longevity of Wild Robins,

At the combined Meeting of the Union and the Club Mr. Lack showed and demonstrated the film of the Galapagos Islands taken when his expedition was there some time ago. It was enthusiastically received by the audience, many of whom had not seen it before.

New forms were described by Mr. J. D. Macdonald, Mr. R. E. Moreau, Capt. C. H. B. Grant and Major C. W. Mackworth-Praed, Mr. V. G. L. van Someren, Mr. Hugh Whistler and Mr. P. A. Clancey.

Mr. N. B. Kinnear communicated a note on the introduction of the Indian House Crow into Port Sudan and one on a common Bittern from Nigeria, and Mr. P. A. Clancey one on a very pale example of *Certhia familiaris*, which, in his opinion, was referable to the Central European form *Certhia familiaris macrodactyla*, a race which has not previously been recorded in Britain.

Captain C. H. B. Grant and Major C. W. Mackworth-Praed have continued their valuable notes on Eastern African Birds.

Further war restrictions forbade Public Luncheons, so one of the Club meetings was held in the Board Room of the British Museum (Natural History), by kind permission of the Director, and the final meeting in June, with the B. O. U., took place on a Saturday afternoon at the Rembrandt Hotel, where the Club still continues to meet.

The Club entertained as a distinguished guest Dr. Jul. Borucki, an ornithological colleague from Poland, who gave the interesting address mentioned above.

G. CARMICHAEL LOW,
Editor.

London, July 1942.

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

(Founded October 5, 1892.)

TITLE AND OBJECTS.

The objects of the Club, which shall be called the "British Ornithologists' Club," are the promotion of social intercourse between Members of the British Ornithologists' Union and to facilitate the publication of scientific information connected with ornithology.

RULES.

(*As amended, October* 12, 1938.)

Management.

I. The affairs of the Club shall be managed by a Committee, to consist of a Chairman, who shall be elected for three years, at the end of which period he shall not be eligible for re-election for the next term; two Vice-Chairmen, who shall serve for one year, and who shall not be eligible for the next year; an Editor of the 'Bulletin,' who shall be elected for five years, at the end of which period he shall not be eligible for re-election for the next term; a Secretary and a Treasurer, who shall each be elected for a term of one year, but who shall be eligible for re-election. There shall be in addition four other Members, the senior of whom shall retire each year, and another Member be elected in his place; every third year the two senior Members shall retire and two other Members be elected in their place. Officers and Members of the Committee shall be elected by the Members of the Club at a General Meeting, and the names of such Officers and Members of Committee nominated by the Committee for the ensuing year shall be circulated with the notice convening the General Meeting at least two weeks before the Meeting. Should any Member wish to propose another candidate, the nomination of such, signed by at least two Members, must reach the Secretary at least one clear week before the Annual General Meeting.

II. Any Member desiring to make a complaint of the manner in which the affairs of the Club are conducted must communicate in writing with the Chairman, who will, if he deem fit, call a Committee Meeting to deal with the matter.

III. If the conduct of any Member shall be deemed by the Committee to be prejudicial to the interests of the Club, he may be requested by the Committee to withdraw from the Club. In the case of refusal, his name may be removed from the list of Members at a General Meeting, provided that, in the notice calling the Meeting, intimation of the proposed resolution to remove his name shall have been given, and that a majority of the Members voting at such Meeting record their votes for his removal.

Subscriptions.

IV. Any Member of the British Ornithologists' Union may become a Member of the Club on payment to the Treasurer of an entrance-fee of one pound and a subscription of one guinea for the current Session. On Membership of the Union ceasing, Membership of the Club also ceases.

Any Member who has not paid his subscription before the last Meeting of the Session shall cease, *ipso facto*, to be a Member of the Club, but may be reinstated on payment of arrears.

Any Member who has resigned less than five years ago may be reinstated without payment of another Entrance Fee.

Any Member who resigns his Membership on going abroad may be readmitted without payment of a further Entrance Fee at the Committee's discretion.

Temporary Associates.

V. Members of the British Ornithologists' Union who are ordinarily resident outside the British Isles, and ornithologists from the British Empire overseas or from foreign countries, may be admitted at the discretion of the Committee as Temporary Associates of the Club for the duration of any visit to the British Isles not exceeding one Session. An entrance fee of five shillings shall be payable in respect of every such admission

if the period exceeds three months. The privileges of Temporary Associates shall be limited to attendance at the ordinary meetings of the Club and the introduction of guests.

Meetings.

VI. The Club will meet, as a rule, on the second Wednesday in every month, from October to June inclusive, at such hour and place as may be arranged by the Committee, but should such Wednesday happen to be Ash Wednesday, the Meeting will take place on the Wednesday following. At these Meetings papers upon ornithological subjects will be read, specimens exhibited and described, and discussion invited.

VII. A General Meeting of the Club shall be held on the day of the October Meeting of each Session, and the Treasurer shall present thereat the Balance-sheet and Report; and the election of Officers and Committee, in so far as their election is required, shall be held at such Meeting.

VIII. A Special General Meeting may be called at the instance of the Committee for any purpose which they deem to be of sufficient importance, or at the instance of not fewer than fifteen Members. Notice of not less than two weeks shall be given of every General and Special General Meeting.

Introduction of Visitors.

IX. Members may introduce visitors at any ordinary Meeting of the Club, but the same guest shall not be eligible to attend on more than three occasions during the Session. No former Member who has been removed for non-payment of subscription, or for any other cause, shall be allowed to attend as a guest.

'Bulletin' of the Club.

X. An Abstract of the Proceedings of the Club shall be printed as soon as possible after each Meeting, under the title of the 'Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club,' and shall be distributed gratis to every Member who has paid his subscription.

Contributors are entitled to six free copies of the 'Bulletin,' but if they desire to exercise this privilege they must give notice to the Editor when their manuscript is handed in. Members purchasing extra copies of the 'Bulletin' are entitled to a rebate of 25 per cent. on the published price, but not more than two copies can be sold to any Member unless ordered before printing.

Descriptions of new species may be published in the 'Bulletin,' although such were not communicated at the Meeting of the Club. This shall be done at the discretion of the Editor and so long as the publication of the 'Bulletin' is not unduly delayed thereby.

Any person speaking at a Meeting of the Club shall be allowed subsequently—subject to the discretion of the Editor—to amplify his remarks in the 'Bulletin,' but no fresh matter shall be incorporated with such remarks.

XI. No communication, the whole or any important part of which has already been published elsewhere, shall be eligible for publication in the 'Bulletin,' except at the discretion of the Editor; and no communication made to the Club may be subsequently published elsewhere without the written sanction of the Editor.

Alteration and Repeal of Rules.

XII. Any suggested alteration or repeal of a standing rule shall be submitted to Members to be voted upon at a General Meeting convened for that purpose.

COMMITTEE, 1941–1942.

Dr. A. Landsborough Thomson, *Chairman* (elected 1938).
Capt. C. H. B. Grant, *Vice-Chairman* (elected 1940).
Mr. B. W. Tucker, *Vice-Chairman* (elected 1940).
Dr. G. Carmichael Low, *Editor* (elected 1940).
Mr. N. B. Kinnear, *Hon. Secretary* (elected 1940).
Major A. G. Lambart Sladen, *Hon. Treasurer* (elected 1936).
Mr. H. J. R. Pease (elected 1939).
Miss Phyllis Barclay-Smith (elected 1940).
Mr. B. G. Harrison (elected 1940).
Miss E. P. Leach (elected 1941).

Officers of the British Ornithologists' Club, Past and Present.

Chairmen.

P. L. Sclater, F.R.S.	1892–1913.
Lord Rothschild, F.R.S.	1913–1918.
W. L. Sclater.	1918–1924.
H. F. Witherby.	1924–1927.
Dr. P. R. Lowe.	1927–1930.
Major S. S. Flower.	1930–1932.
D. A. Bannerman.	1932–1935.
G. M. Mathews.	1935–1938.
Dr. A. Landsborough Thomson.	1938–

Vice-Chairmen.

Lord Rothschild, F.R.S.	1930–1931.
W. L. Sclater.	1931–1932.
H. F. Witherby.	1932–1933.
G. M. Mathews.	1933–1934.
N. B. Kinnear.	1934–1935.
H. Whistler.	1935–1936.
D. Seth-Smith.	1936–1937.
Col. R. Sparrow.	1937–1938.
Dr. G. Carmichael Low.	1938–1939.
Hon. Guy Charteris.	1938–1939.
W. L. Sclater.	1939–1940.
Dr. D. A. Bannerman.	1939–1940.
Capt. C. H. B. Grant.	1940–
Mr. W. B. Tucker.	1940–

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R. Bowdler Sharpe.	1892–1904.
W. R. Ogilvie-Grant.	1904–1914.
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D. Seth-Smith.	1915–1920.
Dr. P. R. Lowe.	1920–1925.
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Dr. G. Carmichael Low.	1930–1935.
Captain C. H. B. Grant.	1935–1940.
Dr. G. Carmichael Low.	1940–

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H. F. Witherby.	1904–1914.
Dr. P. R. Lowe.	1914–1915.
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D. A. Bannerman.	1918–1919.
Dr. Philip Gosse.	1919–1920.
J. L. Bonhote.	1920–1922.
C. W. Mackworth-Praed.	1922–1923.
Dr. G. Carmichael Low.	1923–1929.
C. W. Mackworth-Praed.	1929–1935.

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C. W. Mackworth-Praed.	1935–1936.
Major A. G. L. Sladen.	1936–

LIST OF MEMBERS.

JUNE 1942.

ACLAND, Miss C. M. ; Walwood, Banstead, Surrey.

ALEXANDER, H. G. ; 144 Oak Tree Lane, Selly Oak, Birmingham.

AYLMER, Commdr. E. A., R.N. ; Wyke Oliver, Preston, Dorset.

BAKER, E. C. STUART, C.I.E., O.B.E., F.L.S., H.F.A.O.U. ; 6 Harold Road, Upper Norwood, S.E. 19.

BANNERMAN, DAVID A., M.B.E., Sc.D., F.R.S.E. (*Chairman*, 1932–1935) ; British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell Road, S.W. 7.

BARCLAY-SMITH, Miss PHYLLIS (*Committee*) ; 51 Warwick Avenue, W. 9.

BARRINGTON, FREDERICK J. F., M.S., F.R.C.S. ; 48 Wimpole Street, W. 1.

BENSON, Captain C. W. ; c/o Secretariat, Zomba, Nyasaland.

BEST, Miss M. G. S. ; 10 A Cresswell Place, S.W. 10.

BOORMAN, S. ; Heath Farm, Send, Woking, Surrey.

BOYD, A. W., M.C. ; Frandley House, near Northwich, Cheshire.

BROWN, GEORGE ; Combe Manor, Hungerford, Berks.

BUXTON, ANTHONY ; Knighton, Buckhurst Hill, Essex.

CAMPBELL, Dr. JAMES W. ; Layer Marney Hall, Kelvedon, Essex.

CAVE, Colonel F. O. ; Stoner Hill, Petersfield, Hants.

CHAPIN, Dr. JAMES P. ; Musée du Congo Belge, Tervueren, Belgium ; and American Museum of Natural History, Central Park, New York City, U.S.A.

CHAPMAN, F. M. ; American Museum of Natural History, Central Park, New York City, U.S.A.

CHARTERIS, Hon. G. L. ; 24 Oxford Square, W. 2.

CHASEN, FREDERICK N. ; Raffles Museum, Singapore.

CHISLETT, RALPH ; Larkspur, 42 Broom Crescent, Rotherham, Yorks.

Clancey, P. A. ; 9 Craig Road, Cathcart, Glasgow, S. 4.

Clarke, Brig.-General Goland van Holt, C.M.G., D.S.O. ; Maudlyn House, Steyning, Sussex.

Clarke, John P. Stephenson ; Broadhurst Manor, Horsted Keynes, Sussex.

Clarke, Col. Stephenson Robert, C.B. ; Borde Hill, Cuckfield, Sussex.

Cleave, Henry P. O. ; Mansfield House, Kendrick Road, Reading.

Conover, H. B. ; 6 Scott Street, Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A.

Cunningham, Josias ; Drinagh, Kensington Road, Knock, Belfast.

Delacour, Jean ; New York Zoological Park, Bronx, N.Y. City, U.S.A.

Dewhurst, Lieut.-Col. F. W., R.M. ; Wisdome Cot, Cornwood, S. Devon.

Dobie, William Henry, M.R.C.S. ; 32 St. Martin's Fields, Chester.

Duncan, Arthur Bryce ; Gilchristlands, Closeburn, Dumfriesshire.

Ellis, H. W. ; Friary Hill, Weybridge, Surrey.

Ellis, Ralph, F.L.S. ; 2420 Ridge Road, Berkeley, California, U.S.A.

Ezra, A., O.B.E. ; Foxwarren Park, Cobham, Surrey.

Fisher, James ; Zoological Gardens, Regent's Park, N.W. 8.

Fisher, Kenneth ; School House, Oundle, Northamptonshire.

Flower, Major S. S. (*Chairman*, 1930–1932) ; 27 Park Road, Tring, Herts.

Foulkes-Roberts, Captain P. R., M.C. ; Westwood, Goring-on-Thames, Oxon ; and c/o The Administrator of the Colony, Lagos, Nigeria.

Gilbert, Captain H. A. ; Bishopstone, near Hereford.

Glegg, W. E. ; c/o Zool. Mus., Tring, Herts.

Glenister, A. G. ; The Barn House, East Blatchington, Seaford, Sussex.

Godman, Miss Eva ; South Lodge, Horsham, Sussex.

Grant, Captain C. H. B. (*Vice-Chairman*) ; The Cottage, 15a Emperor's Gate, S.W. 7.

GYLDENSTOLPE, Count NILS ; Royal (Natural History) Museum, Stockholm, Sweden.

HACHISUKA, The Marquess ; Mita Shiba, Tokio, Japan.

HALE, Rev. JAMES R., M.A. ; Yalding Vicarage, Maidstone, Kent.

HARRISON, BERNARD GUY (*Committee*) ; 45 St. Martin's Lane, W.C. 2.

HARRISON, JAMES M., D.S.C., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. ; Bowerwood House, St. Botolph's Road, Sevenoaks, Kent.

HEATH, R. E. ; 2 Pembroke Court, Edwardes Square, W. 8.

HETT, GEOFFREY SECCOMBE, M.B., F.R.C.S. ; 86 Brook Street, Grosvenor Square, W. 1.

HODGKIN, Mrs. T. EDWARD ; Old Ridley, Stocksfield, Northumberland.

HOLLOM, P. A. D. ; Rolverden, Hook Heath, Woking, Surrey.

HOPKINSON, EMILIUS, C.M.G., D.S.O., M.B. ; Wynstay, Balcombe, Sussex.

HUTSON, Lieut-Col. H. P. W., R.E. ; Chatham House, Rome Gardens, Abassia, Cairo, Egypt.

INGLIS, C. MCFARLANE ; Natural History Museum, Darjiling, India.

INGRAM, Capt. COLLINGWOOD ; The Grange, Benenden, Cranbrook, Kent.

JABOUILLE, PIERRE ; c/o Monsieur J. Delacour, New York Zoological Society, New York, U.S.A.

JAMES, Miss CELIA K., Blake's Wood, Barnt Green, Worcester.

JEFFREY, T. C. ; Thorpe Grange, Ashbourne, Derbyshire.

JORDAN, Dr. KARL ; Zoological Museum, Tring, Herts.

JOY, NORMAN H., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P. ; 65 Rock Avenue, Gillingham, Kent.

KINNEAR, NORMAN B. (*Hon. Secretary*) ; British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell Road, S.W. 7.

KURODA, The Marquis NAGAMICHI ; Fukuyoshicho, Akasaka, Tokio, Japan.

LEACH, Miss E. P. (*Committee*) ; 94, Kensington Court, W. 8.

LEWIS, JOHN SPEDAN ; Leckford Abbess, Stockbridge, Hants.

LONGFIELD, Miss CYNTHIA ; 20 Pont Street, S.W. 1.

LOW, GEORGE CARMICHAEL, M.A., M.D., C.M., F.R.C.P. (*Editor of the 'Bulletin'*) ; 7 Kent House, Kensington Court, Kensington, W. 8.

LOWE, P. R., O.B.E., M.B., B.C. (*Chairman*, 1927–1930) ; Parkland, Burley, Ringwood, Hants.

LYNES, Rear-Admiral HUBERT, R.N., C.B., C.M.G. ; 57 Victoria Road, Kensington, W. 6.

70 MACKENZIE, JOHN M. D., B.A., C.M.Z.S. ; Sidlaw Fur Farm, Tullach Ard, Ba[illegible]eggie, Perthshire.

MCKITTRICK, T. H. ; Bank for International Settlements, [illegible]sle, Switzerland.

MACKWORTH-[illegible]EDY, Major C. W. ; Castletop, Burley, near Ringwood, Hants.

MACMILLAN, Captain W. E. F. ; 42 Onslow Square, S.W. 7.

MCNEILE, J. H. ; Nonsuch, Bromham, Chippenham, Wilts.

75 MACPHERSON, D. W. K. ; P.O., Lilongwe, Nyasaland.

MANSFIELD, The Right Hon. the Earl of ; Scone Palace, Perth.

MANSON-BAHR, Sir PHILIP, C.M.G., D.S.O., M.D., F.R.C.P. ; 149 Harley Street, W. 1.

MATHEWS, G. M., C.B.E., F.R.S.E., H.F.A.O.U. (*Chairman*, 1935–1938) ; Meadway, St. Cross, Winchester, Hants.

MAVROGORDATO, J. G. ; Mariners, Westerham, Kent.

80 MAY, W. NORMAN, M.D. ; The White House, Sonning, Berks.

MAYAUD, NOËL ; Le Lys, par le Puy-Notre-Dame, Maine-et-Loire, France.

MEIKLEJOHN, Col. R. F., D.S.O. ; Lodge Farm, Melton, Woodbridge, Suffolk.

MEINERTZHAGEN, Colonel R., D.S.O. ; 17 Kensington Park Gardens, W. 11.

MOMIYAMA, TOKU TARO ; 1146 Sasazka, Yoyohata-mati, Tokio, Japan.

85 MUNN, P. W. ; c/o British Consulate, Lisbon, Portugal.

MURTON, Mrs. C. D. ; Cranbrook Lodge, Cranbrook, Kent.

MUSSELWHITE, D. W. ; 59 Mayford Road, Wandsworth Common, S.W. 12.

NAUMBURG, Mrs. W. W.; 121 East 64th Street, New York City, U.S.A.

NEWMAN, T. H.; Verulam, 46 Forty Avenue, Wembley Park, Middlesex.

90 NICHOLSON, E. M.; 13 Upper Cheyne Row, S.W. 3.

NORTH, Captain M. E. W.; c/o Secretariat, Nairobi, Kenya.

OSMASTON, BERTRAM BERESFORD; 116 Banbury Road, Oxford.

PAKENHAM, R. H. W.; Kingsley, Hurtis Hill, Crowborough, Sussex; and c/o Secretariat, Zanzibar, Eastern Africa.

PAULSON, C. W. G.; Woodside Cottage, Wheeler's Lane, Smallfield, Surrey.

95 PEALL, Mrs. OSCAR; Oare, Marlborough, Wilts.

PEASE, H. J. R. (*Committee*); The Savile Club, 69 Brook Street, W. 1

PHILLIPS, A. S.; Frewin's Close, South Stoke, Reading, Berks.

PITMAN, Capt. C. R. S., D.S.O., M.C.; c/o Grindlay & Co., 54 Parliament Street, S.W. 1.

POPHAM, HUGH LEYBORNE, M.A.; Hunstrete House, Pensford, Somerset.

100 PRIESTLEY, Mrs. J. B.; Broxwood Court Hostel, Leominster, Herefordshire.

RHODES, Miss G. M.; Hildersham Hall, Cambridge.

RICKETT, C. B.; 27 Kendrick Road, Reading, Berks.

RIVIÈRE, B. B., F.R.C.S.; The Old Hall, Woodbastwick, Norfolk.

ROOKE, K. B.; 18 Wharncliffe Road, Boscombe, Bournemouth, Hants.

105 SANDEMAN, R. G. C. C.; Dan-y-parc, Crickhowell, Brecon.

SCHAUENSEE, R. M. DE; Devon, Pennsylvania, U.S.A.

SCHOUTEDEN, Dr. H.; Musée du Congo Belge, Tervueren, Belgium.

SCLATER, WILLIAM LUTLEY, M.A. (*Chairman*, 1918–1924); 10 Sloane Court, S.W. 3.

SETH-SMITH, DAVID; "Brabourne," Poyle Road, Guildford.

110 SHERRIFF, ALBERT; 8 Ranulf Road, Hampstead, N.W. 2.

SIMONDS, Major MAURICE H.; Fines Baylewick, Binfield, Berks.

Sladen, Major A. G. Lambart, M.C. (*Hon. Treasurer*); Horsenden Manor, Princes Risborough, Bucks; and 39 St. James's Street, S.W. 1.

Sparrow, Col. R., C.M.G., D.S.O.; The Lodge, Colne Engaine, Earls Colne, Essex.

Steuart, Mrs. Ronald; The Old Rectory, North Fambridge, Chelmsford, Essex.

115 Stevens, Herbert; Clovelly, Beaconsfield Road, Tring, Herts.

Stevens, Noël; Walcot Hall, Lydbury North, Salop.

Stonor, Lieut. C. R.; British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell Road, S.W. 7.

Taka-Tsukasa, Prince Nobusuke; 1732 Sanchome, Kami-meguro, Meguro-Ku, Tokio, Japan.

Thomson, A. Landsborough, C.B., O.B.E., D.Sc., F.R.S.E. (*Chairman*); 16 Tregunter Road, S.W. 10.

120 Ticehurst, N. F., O.B.E., M.B., F.R.C.S.; 24 Pevensey Road, St. Leonards-on-Sea, Sussex.

Tucker, B. W., M.A. (*Vice-Chairman*); 9 Marston Ferry Road, Oxford.

Turtle, Lancelot J.; 17–21 Castle Place, Belfast.

Urquhart, Capt. Alastair, D.S.O.; Latimer Cottage, Latimer, Chesham, Bucks.

van Someren, Dr. V. G. L.; P.O. Box 1682, Nairobi, Kenya Colony.

125 Vincent, J.; "Firle," Mooi River, Natal, South Africa.

Wade, Major G. A., M.C.; St. Quintin, Sandy Lane, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffs.

Wait, W. E., C.M.G., C.F.A.O.U.; Applegarth, Aldbury, near Tring, Herts.

Waite, Herbert William, C.I.E.; c/o Messrs. Grindlay & Co., Ltd., Bombay, India.

Ware, R.; Leafwood, Frant, Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

130 Watt, Mrs. H. Winifred Boyd, F.Z.S.; at Holmbury, 12 Campbell Road, Boscombe, Bournemouth, Hants.

Whistler, Hugh, J.P., F.Z.S., F.L.S.; Caldbec House, Battle, Sussex.

White, Charles M. N.; Park-View, Garstang Road, Broughton, near Preston, Lancs.

Wishart, E. E.; Marsh Farm, Binsted, Arundel, Sussex.

Witherby, Harry F., M.B.E. (*Chairman*, 1924–1927); Gracious Pond Farm, Chobham, near Woking, Surrey.

135 Workman, William Hughes; Lismore, Windsor Avenue, Belfast.

Worms, Charles de; Milton Park, Egham, Surrey.

137 Yamashina, The Marquis; 49 Minami Hiradei, Shikuya-ku, Tokio, Japan.

Total number of Members 137

NOTICE.

[Members are specially requested to keep the Hon. Secretary informed of any changes in their addresses, and those residing abroad should give early notification of coming home on leave.]

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3 DEC 1941
PURCHASED

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. CCCCXXXIX.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

Chairman : Dr. A. Landsborough Thomson.

This was held at the Rembrandt Hotel at 2.30 p.m. on Saturday, October 18, 1941, preceded by a luncheon at 1.30 p.m. ; 25 Members present.

1. The minutes of the last General Meeting, held at the Rembrandt Hotel at 2.30 p.m. on Saturday, October 12, 1940, were read, confirmed and signed.

2. Mr. N. B. Kinnear, the Honorary Secretary, read his report for the past Session 1940–1941 :—

He said that the number of members showed a further decrease (153 to 144). The following members had died :— H. B. Booth, G. H. Caton-Haigh, P. W. Reynolds and Dr. C. B. Ticehurst.

Six members, W. B. Alexander, Mrs. E. C. Barnes, H. D. Cunynghame, Miss J. Ferrier, Mrs. D. Micholls and H. Whitley, had resigned, and again no new members had joined the Club.

It had not been possible to hold the usual meetings of the Club on Wednesday evenings owing to the black-out and general conditions prevailing. Instead of this, five meetings had been held on Saturday afternoons, viz., in October, December, February, April and June, and this new arrangement had proved satisfactory, the attendances being as follows :—

72 members, 11 members of the B. O. U., 2 guests of the Club and 25 other guests, a total of 110.

A luncheon was substituted for the usual dinner, and this gave the members a chance of seeing and speaking to each other before the meeting. The life of the Club, though in a diminished form, was thus maintained.

The Report was approved.

3. Major A. G. Lambart Sladen, the Honorary Treasurer, sent his Annual Report for the Session 1940–1941. He said :—

In submitting the Financial Statement of the British Ornithologists' Club for the twelve months ended August 31, 1941, I think members may congratulate themselves on the sound financial position, having regard to the very difficult times through which we are now passing.

It will be seen from it that although subscriptions from members are slightly reduced owing to resignations, deaths, etc., the balance of cash in hand and in invested funds amounts to £847 17*s*. 3*d*. as against £776 6*s*. 3*d*. for the last year. The improved balance is due largely to the reduction in cost of printing and distribution of publications and the 'Bulletin', which have been considerably curtailed owing to present conditions.

The difficulty of collecting subscriptions from foreign members is naturally considerable, though our American friends have been in continual communication with us throughout the war.

It should also be noted that the National Savings Certificates and 3½ per cent. War Loan held on behalf of the Club, are shown in the Balance Sheet at cost, though their present-day value is substantially greater.

The Balance Sheet will, as usual, be printed in and issued with the coming number of the 'Bulletin'.

The Report was approved.

4. Election of Officers.

In view of the present restriction of the Club's activities and the small number of members able to take part in them, the Committee consider that office-bearers who continue to be

Financial Statement for the 12 *months September* 1, 1940, *to August* 31, 1941.

11 m'ths ended Aug. 31, 1940. £ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
	To Balance in Hand, September 1, 1940 :—		
79 10 7	Cash at Bank, Current a/c .	118 13 1	
1 10 6	Do. Deposit a/c .	1 10 7	
	500 National Savings Certificates at cost, held by		
400 0 0	Bank	400 0 0	
255 13 4	£256 14*s.* 1*d.* 3½% War Loan	255 13 4	
1 7 0	Cash in Hands of Treasurer.	9 3	
			776 6 3
738 1 5			
152 5 0	,, Subscriptions of 128 Members.	134 8 0	
	,, Subscription of 1 Member...	1 0 0	
2 0 0	,, Subscriptions in advance ...	3 1 0	
	,, Subscriptions in arrear.....	3 3 0	
			141 12 0
35 4 3	,, Sales of 'Bulletin'	....	34 14 1
8 19 8	,, War Loan Interest	....	8 19 8
1	,, Bank Interest	....	....
£936 10 5			£961 12 0

11 m'ths ended Aug. 31, 1940. £ s. d.		£ s. d.	£ s. d.
	By Printing and Distribution of		
123 17 2	Publications and 'Bulletin.'		85 0 2
	,, W. Headley Perrett—Arranging Seating at Luncheons ..		1 1 0
2 15 0	,, Hire of Lanterns at Meetings.		1 15 0
	,, H. B. Usher for compiling and arranging Index of 'Bulletin' B. O. C., 1940/41		6 7 1
6 7 9	,, Miscellaneous Expenditure, including Audit Fee, Printing,		
7 4 3	Stationery, and Postages ..		9 1 6
	,, Zoological Society — Contribution towards cost of Printing 'Zoological Record'		10 10 0
	,, Miss Barclay-Smith—Report		
20 0 0	on Wild Fowl		....
	,, Balance in Hand, August 31, 1941 :—		
118 13 1	Cash at Bank, Current a/c .	189 2 6	
1 10 7	Do. Deposit a/c .	1 10 7	
400 0 0	500 National Savings Certificates at cost, held by Bank.	400 0 0	
255 13 4	,, £256 14*s.* 1*d.* 3½% War Loan.	255 13 4	
9 3	Cash in Hands of Treasurer .	1 10 10	
			847 17 3
£936 10 5			£961 12 0

A. G. LAMBART SLADEN, *Hon. Treasurer.*

We have examined the foregoing Account with the Books and Vouchers of the British Ornithologists' Club for the 12 months ended August 31, 1941, and certify it to be in accordance therewith. We have also verified the Cash at Bank and the holding of National Savings Certificates and 3½% War Loan.

224, Regent Street, W.1.
October 2, 1941.

W. B. KEEN & CO.,
Chartered Accountants.

available should be retained. The following Resolution was accordingly moved :—" That the provisions of Rule 1 as regards non-eligibility for immediate re-election to office be suspended during the war."

Subject to the above, the Committee recommend that the Chairman (Dr. A. Landsborough Thomson) and Vice-Chairmen (Captain C. H. B. Grant and Mr. B. W. Tucker) be re-elected for a further year.

The Committee also recommend that the Hon. Secretary (Mr. N. B. Kinnear) and the Hon. Treasurer (Major A. G. Lambart Sladen) be re-elected for next year, and that Miss E. P. Leach be elected to the Committee in place of Mr. P. A. D. Hollom.

The Meeting unanimously adopted these suggestions.

The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to the Hon. Treasurer, the Hon. Secretary and Editor for the trouble they had taken in keeping the affairs of the Club going in the difficult times we were passing through. This was carried with acclamation.

5. Arrangements for Session.

The Meeting was strongly in favour of holding meetings, where possible, throughout the winter and spring. It was resolved to hold them bi-monthly, as in the last Session, the dates to be decided by the Officers of the Club.

Due notice of such decisions would be forwarded to the members of the Club from time to time.

This concluded the business.

Committee 1941-42.

Dr. A. Landsborough Thomson, *Chairman* (elected 1938).
Capt. C. H. B. Grant, *Vice-Chairman* (elected 1940).
Mr. B. W. Tucker, *Vice-Chairman* (elected 1940).
Dr. G. Carmichael Low, *Editor* (elected 1940).
Mr. N. B. Kinnear, *Hon. Secretary* (elected 1940).
Major A. G. Lambart Sladen, *Hon. Treasurer* (elected 1936).
Mr. H. J. R. Pease (elected 1939).
Miss Phyllis Barclay-Smith (elected 1940).
Mr. B. G. Harrison (elected 1940).
Miss E. P. Leach (elected 1941).

ORDINARY MEETING.

The four-hundred-and-thirty-fourth Meeting of the Club was held at the Rembrandt Hotel, Thurloe Place, S.W. 7, at 3 P.M., on Saturday, October 18, 1941, immediately after the Annual General Meeting.

Chairman : Dr. A. LANDSBOROUGH THOMSON.

Members present :—Miss P. BARCLAY-SMITH ; Miss M. G. BEST ; A. EZRA ; J. FISHER ; Miss E. M. GODMAN ; Capt. C. H. B. GRANT (*Vice-Chairman*) ; Dr. J. M. HARRISON ; Dr. E. HOPKINSON ; N. H. JOY ; N. B. KINNEAR (*Hon. Sec.*) ; Miss E. P. LEACH ; Miss C. LONGFIELD ; Dr. G. CARMICHAEL LOW (*Editor*) ; Dr. P. R. LOWE ; Sir P. MANSON-BAHR ; H. J. R. PEASE ; Mrs. J. B. PRIESTLEY ; Miss G. M. RHODES ; W. L. SCLATER ; D. SETH-SMITH ; Col. R. SPARROW ; B. W. TUCKER (*Vice-Chairman*) ; Mrs. H. M. BOYD WATT ; H. F. WITHERBY.

Guests :—Miss C. L. CROMPTON ; C. T. DALGETY ; Miss L. P. GRANT ; G. E. LODGE ; Miss C. POPHAM ; B. B. ROBERTS ; Mrs. SPARROW ; M. STEWART ; Miss M. VAN OOSTVEEN ; H. G. VEVERS ; J. S. WATSON ; Mrs. H. F. WITHERBY.

Members, 25 ; Guests, 12. Total, 37.

Mr. JAMES FISHER, M.A., M.B.O.U. (by permission of the Coastal Command), made a communication on the birds of Rockall, and other inaccessible sea-bird stations, as shown by aerial photographs taken by the Royal Air Force.

The Birds of Rockall as shown by photographs and observations taken by the Royal Air Force.

The history of Rockall*, that remote and romantic stack in the North Atlantic, over 150 miles west of St. Kilda, has been obscure and conflicting. At all events this was so as regards its birds. Several species have, at one time or another, been reported on the rock itself by observers of complete reliability such as Harvie-Brown and Barrington (2) and by others less accurate or truthful. It was with the intention of finding out the present status of the birds of

* Previously, Rockall was held to lie at 57° 40′ N., 13° 30′ W., but I understand new observations have lately "shifted" it some miles.

Rockall that in April, 1941, I approached the Commander-in-Chief, Coastal Command, Royal Air Force, and enquired whether aircraft of his Command were likely to be in the neighbourhood of the rock, and whether (if so) they would be able to make observations and take photographs. The happy results of this request for information, which was granted in a most prompt and friendly manner, are set out in this communication.

It is necessary, first of all, to set out what has already been recorded about Rockall's birds.

1810. On July 8 of this year Hall (10), who landed from H.M.S. *Endymion*, described the top of the rock as white with the droppings of sea-birds, and specifically mentions Gannets as among the "throng" of birds present. He did not state whether birds were on the rock at the time of his visit, or flying round it. (For the true date of this visit, sometimes erroneously recorded as 1811, Purdy (12) is the authority.)

1819. On May 24 Fisher (7) saw numbers of birds in the neighbourhood, but did not approach close enough to see what birds (if any) were on the rock, though he noted the whiteness of the droppings on the top.

c. 1831. Capt. Vidal's chart, made in about this year (3), mentions that "the summit is made white by birds".

c. 1855. On November 1, 1894, an account was taken down from a sailor who was on a private yacht from which a party landed "about 39 years ago" (1). This party was stated to have shot a quantity of Cormorants, Kittiwakes and Sea-Gulls on Rockall.

1869. T. Blanche of Shetland told of a visit in this year (3) on which "no bird is seen near it . . . . unless the Mollymak . . . . they are of a greyish-white colour."

1887. A year of much activity, real and imaginary. In early July (2) D. Davidson of the *Dolphin*, or *Delphine*, landed, and his crew, according to Andresen, an eye-witness, brought off a boat-load of eggs (1), but according to P. Jakobsen (13) saw no eggs, only

young. It seems clear that this record of "no eggs, only young" applies more truthfully to the situation at the time of the landing of J. M. Peterson from the *Gauntlet*, three weeks later, but in the same month, particularly since a Guillemot's egg, stated to be *via* the *Delphine*, was collected.

Some way off the rock Andresen saw "dark grey Mollies".

Capt. E. Freshwater of the *Undine* (2) told J. Cordeaux that he also landed in this year. He recorded that birds were very numerous, and that the most numerous *on* Rockall were "Rockall Lyres" (*lyre* is the Faeroe word for Shearwater (13)), "Willocks" (Guillemots), Puffins, Gannets, Kittiwakes, other Gulls, and probably Fulmars.

Further, also in this year, Capt. J. Hansen was alleged by H. C. Müller (1) to have landed and seen and taken Brünnich's Guillemot, Razorbill, Fulmar and Great Shearwater (the latter was stated to have eggs deep in holes in the rock). It is clear, however (2), that he never landed.

1888. On May 7 or 8 D. Davidson of the *Dolphin*, this time with his brother Ole, climbed Rockall (2). P. Jakobsen was also among the six men who made the landing (13). 400 eggs* were stated to have been collected, all of Guillemots; large numbers of Great Shearwaters and Fulmars were seen flying at sea, close by.

In about this year Capt. Leo of the *Great Surprise* is alleged (3) to have landed. He stated that he took about 10 dozen eggs, and that another smack (? *Dolphin*) had done the same. An egg supposed to have been taken in this lot was passed to Buckley; it was a Guillemot's egg.

1891. In this year an anonymous writer in 'Chambers' Journal'† claims to have landed on Rockall and seen Kittiwakes, Herring and Lesser Black-backed Gulls,

* This does not fit very well with what is known of the Guillemot's breeding season.

† For March, 1892.

Puffins, Razorbills, Guillemots (an occasional Little Auk amongst them), Petrels, Terns, a Skua and a Fulmar. On being tackled by the editors of the 'Annals of Scottish Natural History' (4) the gentleman concerned was forced to admit that "I never was at Rockall".

c. 1894. A Grimsby fisherman told John Cordeaux (1) that in about this year Rockall was "covered by birds' dung". Grey seals frequented the rocks [all other eye-witnesses either do not mention seals, or specifically comment on their absence]. "Gulls, Cormorants, Gannets and *many other sorts* of birds nest there, also Kittiwakes".

1896. In this year the only expedition to Rockall that has included scientific ornithologists among its personnel set sail. The ship, with Harvie-Brown and Brarington (2) and Green (9) on board, was in sight of Rockall on June 6, 7 and 15. It was not possible to land. The birds seen on the rock were :—

200–250 Guillemots on the only ledge on which they could breed (see 1941).

c. 30 Puffins sitting in weathered holes (not suitable for breeding in).

50 Kittiwakes, all immature ; one carried ? nest-material.

10 Gannets, 8 of them in immature plumage.

1 or 2 Razorbills, *possibly* (not clear whether *on* rock, or among Auks seen at sea close to the rock).

Fulmars and Great Shearwaters were seen at sea close to Rockall, but were not seen on it.

1921. In this year Dr. Charcot's *Pourquoi-Pas ?* (5, 8) paid a visit to Rockall. On June 29 an ex-circus clown named Moussard was on the rock for half an hour. On July 1 a second landing was made by Pierre Le Conte and a member of the crew, Bonnichon. Charcot writes that Le Conte, helped by "indications" furnished by their naturalist, M. Hamel, brought off a

series of details and observations on the "emplacements" occupied by the different species of birds.

The statement was that birds lived by "milliers" on the rock, and belonged to five different species, viz. :—

la mouette tridactyle (Kittiwake).
le puffin majeur ou à face blanche (Great Shearwater).
le macareux moine (Puffin).
le fou de Bassan (Gannet).
le guillemot à capuchin (Guillemot).

Gladstone (8), who had correspondence with Charcot, was told by him that there were "quelques sula bassana sur le sommet", and that Guillemots, Puffins and Kittiwakes were also present. In this correspondence Charcot did not mention the Great Shearwater as on the rock ; and for its appearance in M. Le Conte's "détails" we must, I think, blame the previous "indications" of M. Hamel. Of course the Great Shearwater did not occupy any "emplacement" on Rockall, and never has done so, to the best of any reliable person's knowledge.

1941. During the summer of 1941 aircraft of the Coastal Command, Royal Air Force, flew over Rockall several times. On five of these occasions photographs were taken of the rock from different angles, and in some cases observations were made. The great, broad ledge, on the S.W. side, visible in these photographs must be "the only ledge on which Guillemots could breed" of Harvie-Brown and Barrington (2) in 1896. On these photographs only Gannets, Kittiwakes and Guillemots can be *surely* detected sitting on, or flying on to, near or off the rock, though a bird, flying near Rockall, in one of the photographs taken on July 3, may be a Fulmar. The details of the counts of identifiable birds on these photographs are as follows :—

(1) June 19. 1 Gannet on top rock ; 48–53 Guillemots on S.W. ledge.

(2) June 23*. *c.* 7 Kittiwakes on top, 58 at sea ; over 10 Guillemots on S.W. ledge (fig. 2).

(3) June 23. *c.* 15 Gannets and *c.* 81 Kittiwakes at sea.

(4) July 3. 1 ? Gannet on top, 5–7 at sea ; 9–11 Kittiwakes at sea ; 26 Guillemots S.W. ledge.

(5) July 3. 1 ? Gannet at sea ; over 17 Guillemots S.W. ledge.

(6) July 3. 1 ? Gannet on top ; 13 Guillemots S.W. ledge (fig. 3).

(7) July 18†. 5–11 Guillemots S.W. ledge.

(8) July 18. 10–13 Guillemots S.W. ledge.

(9) Aug. 7. *c.* 150 Kittiwakes on top and sides and at sea ‡ (fig. 4).

Summary.

Gannet. Probably 1 on top, *c.* 15 off ‡, June 19 ; probably 1 on top, *c.* 6 off, July 3 ; none July 18 or August 7. *Certainly not breeding.*

Kittiwake. None June 19 ; *c.* 7 on top, *c.* 81 off, June 23 ; *c.* 10 off July 3 ; ? 15 off July 18 ; *c.* 140 on top and sides and at sea August 7. *Certainly not breeding.*

Guillemot. All sitting on S.W. ledge, a suitable breeding place. *c.* 50 June 19 ; over 10 June 23 ; up to 26 July 3 ; 25–30 July 18 ; none August 7. *Possibly breeding.*

* On this date an observer in the aircraft records " impossible to give the different species as birds were so numerous that it was dangerous to go too close. Numerous birds were sitting on the water around the rock when we first approached. The top of the rock was well covered by birds, far too many to count or distinguish one from another .... the only one that was recognized at all was the Gannet, of which I saw several in flight ".

† On this day an observer noted fifteen birds flying round Rockall, of undetermined species (but not Gannets), and 25–30 birds sitting on the S.W. ledge—" Guillemots or Razorbills, but most probably former ".

‡ " At sea " or " off " means flying near the rock, about to land, or taking off.

Fig. 1.—General view of Rockall, looking N.N.E. (*i. e.*, view of S.S.W. side); taken July 3, 1941. R.A.F. Official photo. Crown Copyright Reserved.

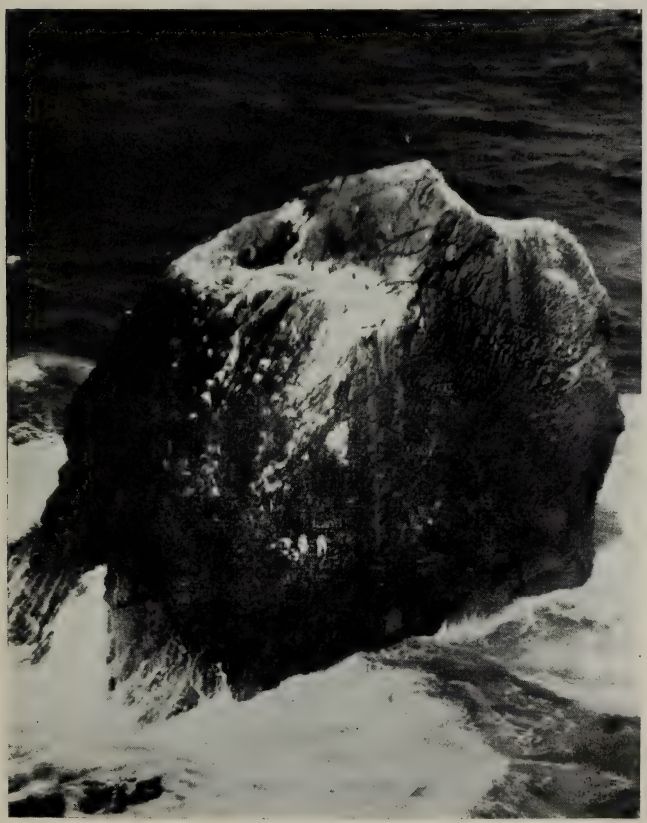

Fig. 3.—Rockall, looking N.W. (*i. e.*, view of S. & E. sides): ? Gannet and Guillemots on rock; taken July 3, 1941. R.A.F. Official photo. Crown Copyright Reserved.

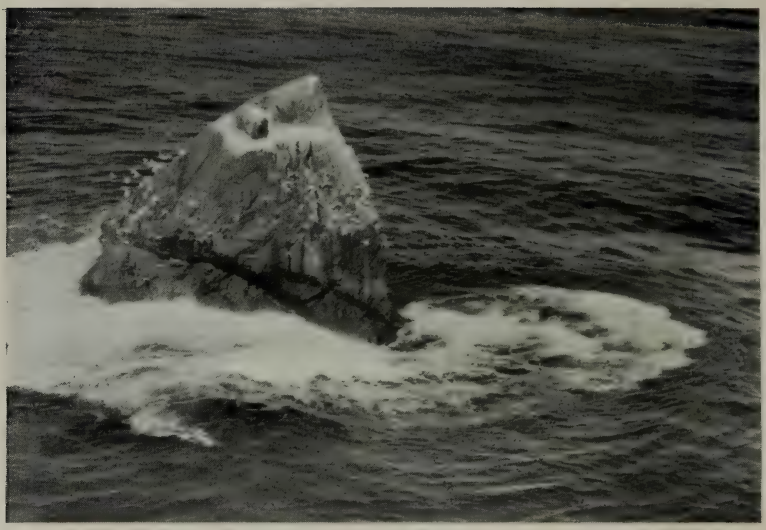

Fig. 4.—Rockall, looking E.N.E. (*i. e.*, view of W.S.W. side): *c.* 140 Kittiwakes; taken August 7, 1941. R.A.F. Official photo. Crown Copyright Reserved.

Fig. 2.—Rockall, looking N.N.W. (*i. e.*, view of S. & E. sides): Kittiwakes in air, Guillemots on ledge; taken June 23, 1941. R.A.F. Official photo. Crown Copyright Reserved.

Summary of Birds seen, or alleged to have been seen, at Rockall.

	1810	1819	1831	1855	1869	1887	1888	1894	1896	1921	1941
Sea-birds generally	P	P	P	P	—?	P	P	P	P	P	P
Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax carbo carbo* (L.))			×					×			
Gannet (*Sula bassana* (L.))	P ?					P ?		P ?	P	P	P
Great Shearwater (*Puffinus gravis* (O'Reilly))						×	O		O	×	
Fulmar (*Fulmarus glacialis glacialis* (L.))					O ?	×, O ?	O		O		O ?
Gulls (*Larus*)			×			×		×			
Kittiwake (*Rissa tridactyla tridactyla* (L.))			P ?			P ?		P ?	P	P	P
British ? Razorbill (*Alca torda ? britannica* Ticehurst)						×			P ?, O		
Northern ? Guillemot (*Uria aalge ? aalge* (Pont.))						B	B		B ?	B ?	B ?
Brünnich's Guillemot (*Uria lomvia lomvia* (L.))						×					
Southern ? Puffin ((*Fratercula arctica ? grabae* (Brehm))						P ?			P	P	

Explanation of symbols:—P, present *on* the rock; —, not present; ×, alleged erroneously (often through preconceived notions) to be on the rock; O, off the rock, *i. e.*, in the air or at sea close by; B, breeding on the rock.

It is clear then, that Gannets and Kittiwakes use Rockall only as a resting place. Guillemots have probably bred on the large S.W. ledge, and may still do so. Razorbills have never been proved to have alighted on the rock; though Puffins have done so in the past, they were not observed in 1941. No other species of bird has ever been reliably reported to have landed on Rockall.

Acknowledgements.

For obvious reasons, I am not permitted to give details of the aircraft, or their pilots and crews, which have flown over Rockall. I can, therefore, only make a general acknowledgement to the Coastal Command; and I am very grateful to it, indeed, for having taken an interest in this problem, for having contributed so handsomely to its solution, and for having granted permission to reproduce four of the photographs.

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(8) Gladstone, H. S. (1937). Dr. Charcot and the Birds of Rockall. *Brit. Birds*, xxx. pp. 251–53.

(9) Green, W. S. (1897). Narrative of the Cruise [to Rockall]. *Trans. Roy. Irish. Acad.* xxxi. pp. 39–47.

(10) Hall, B. (1842). 'Fragments of Voyages and Travels.' Edinburgh, 3rd ed.

(11) Jones, T. R. (1897). On Rockall and its Previous History. *Trans. Roy. Irish Acad.* xxxi. pp. 89–97.

(12) Purdy, J. (1845). 'Memoirs, descriptive and explanatory, to accompany the Charts of the Northern Atlantic Ocean.' 9th ed., ed. A. G. Findlay.

(13) Vevers, H. G. Personal communication.

(14) Vidal, Capt. (1831). Admiralty Chart no. 2700.

Notes on Eastern African Birds.

Capt. C. H. B. Grant and Major C. W. Mackworth-Praed sent the following five notes :—

(1) On the Type-locality of *Balearica pavonina pavonina* (Linnæus).

Linnæus, Syst. Nat. i. 1758, p. 141, gives only Africa, but also gives references to Aldrovandi, Orn. vol. iii. 1599, lxx. chap. 6; Willoughby, Orn. 1676, p. 201, pl. 48; and two others. Aldrovandi gives no locality, but Willoughby states that this bird comes from Cape Verde.

We can, therefore, fix the type-locality of *Balearica pavonina pavonina* (Linn.) as Cape Verde, Senegal.

(2) On the Type-locality of *Charadrius marginatus* Vieillot, N. Dict. d'Hist. Nat. xxvii. 1818, p. 138.

Vieillot gives no locality, nor does he give any reference to other authors. The next author to mention this bird is Wagler, Syst. Av. sp. 28, 1827, who gives locality as Cape of Good Hope.

We can therefore accept this as the type-locality of *Charadrius marginatus* Vieillot, and propose to restrict it to the Cape Peninsula.

(3) On the Type-locality of *Poicephalus robustus* (Gmelin).

In the Syst. Av. Æthiop. i. 1924, p. 198, Sclater states that the type-locality is unknown, and we cannot find that any author has fixed one for this Parrot.

Gmelin, Syst. Nat. i. pt. 1, 1788, p. 344, gives no locality, but gives one reference to Lath. Syn. vol. I. i. no. 100, 1781, p. 296 : no locality.

The next references in priority of date are :—

Latham, Ind. Orn. i. 1790, p. 112, no. 94 : no locality.

Lichtenstein, Cat. rer. rariss. Hamb. 1793, p. 6, who, under his *Psittacus cafer*, gives Cafferland.

We can therefore fix the type-locality of *Poicephalus robustus* (Gmelin) as Eastern Cape Province.

(4) On the Distribution of *Eremomela canescens* Antinori in Eastern Africa.

Eremomela canescens canescens Antinori.

Eremomela canescens Antinori, Cat. Coll. Ucc. March 1864, p. 38 : Djur River, Bahr-el-Ghazal, south-western Sudan ; of which *Eremomela elegans elgonensis* van Someren, Bull. B. O. C. xl. 1920, p. 92 : Kibingei, south Elgon, western Kenya Colony, is a synonym, as we can see no character by which this race can be distinguished.

Above, head pale ashy grey ; rest of upper parts bright greenish-yellow ; a black streak from base of bill through eye to ear-coverts ; below, chin and upper chest white ; chest and under tail-coverts and under wing-coverts canary-yellow.

Distribution.—Southern Sudan, Uganda and western Kenya Colony.

Eremomela canescens elegans Heugl.

Eremomela elegans Heuglin, J. f. O. July 1864, p. 259 : Abyssinia–Sennar boundary.

Paler above than *E. c. canescens* and has a slight white stripe over eye.

Distribution.—Cameroon to eastern Sudan at Sennar.

Eremomela canescens abyssinica Bann.

Eremomela elegans abyssinica Bannerman, Bull. B. O. C. xxix. 1911, p. 38 : Omo River, south-western Abyssinia.

Darker above than *E. c. canescens* and *E. c. elegans*, more olivaceous, less yellow ; no stripe over eye.

Distribution.—Abyssinia and the Sobat Valley of the Sudan and south-west as far as Duk Ayod, south-eastern Upper Nile Province,

(5) On the Races and Plumages of *Heliolais erythroptera* (Jard.) and the Status of *Heliolais castanopsis* Vincent.

Sclater, Syst. Av. Æthiop. ii. 1930, p. 566, recognizes six races, but casts doubt on *Heliolais erythroptera kavirondensis* van Someren. Vincent, Bull. B. O. C. liii. 1933, p. 139, has shown that *Heliolais erythroptera kirbyi* Haagner must become a synonym of *Heliolais erythroptera rhodoptera* (Shelley).

Although we have not been able to examine specimens from the Kavirondo area, and van Someren gives no measurements, we are of opinion that *Heliolais erythroptera kavirondensis* will prove to be a synonym of *Heliolais erythroptera rhodoptera*; the type is an August specimen in "greyish" breeding dress, and was compared with the type of *Heliolais erythroptera major* (Blundell & Lovat), which is a March bird in non-breeding dress.

Vincent, Bull. B. O. C. liii. 1933, p. 140, described *Heliolais castanopsis* as a new species, comparing it to *Heliolais erythroptera rhodoptera*. The character given is the "entire absence of any greyish coloration". This character is that of the non-breeding dress of *Heliolais erythroptera rhodoptera*, and of which *Heliolais castanopsis* must become a synonym. Vincent gives "sexual organs to winter condition".

We are able to recognize four races as follows, all of which have a breeding and non-breeding dress :—

Heliolais erythroptera erythroptera (Jard.).

Drymoica erythroptera Jardine, Contr. Orn. 1849, p. 15, plate : Gold Coast.

Breeding dress, May–September : Above grey, or vinous-grey, bill black. Non-breeding dress, January–May : Above vinous-tawny, bill horn. Wing 52 to 56 mm. Fifteen specimens examined.

Two specimens, undated (Brit. Mus. Reg. nos. 1876.5.23.156 and 1895.5.1.1152), are showing both the breeding and non-breeding dress, and one dated April, from Cameroons (Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1926.8.8.396), has already assumed the black bill, but has not started to assume the breeding dress.

That this race has a breeding and non-breeding dress is well known (see Bannerman, Bds. Trop. W. Afr. v. 1939, p. 209).

The young bird is paler than the adult in non-breeding dress and is more vinous-brownish.

Distribution.—Gold Coast to Nigeria.

Heliolais erythroptera jodoptera (Heuglin).

Drymœca jodoptera Heuglin, J. f. O. 1864, p. 258 ; Bongo, Bahr-el-Ghazal, south-western Sudan.

Rather larger, and bill distinctly longer than in *H. e. erythroptera*, but bill not so long as in *H. e. major*.

Breeding dress, June–July : Paler than *H. e. erythroptera*, more vinous, bill horn. Non-breeding dress, October–April : Darker than *H. e. erythroptera*, more vinous-chestnut, bill horn. Wing 56 to 60 mm. Nine specimens examined. Two specimens from Wau (Brit. Mus. Reg. nos. 1915.12.24.1067 and 1922.12.5.2) are very worn but not yet showing signs of moulting into the breeding dress. The young bird is a paler and more fluffy example of the adult in non-breeding dress.

Bannerman, Bds. Trop. W. Afr. v. 1939, p. 211, gives size only as a character, but, as shown above, there are distinct colour differences in both breeding and non-breeding dress between this race and *H. e. erythroptera*, and moreover, it does not appear to assume a black bill in breeding dress.

Distribution.—Cameroon to south-western Sudan.

Heliolais erythroptera rhodoptera (Shelley).

Cisticola rhodoptera (Shelley), Ibis, 1880, p. 333 : Usambara Hills, north-eastern Tanganyika Territory ; of which *Heliolais erythroptera kavirondensis* van Someren, Nov. Zool. xxix. 1922, p. 218 : Fort Ternan, Kavirondo, western Kenya Colony, and *Heliolais castanopsis* Vincent, Bull. B. O. C. liii. 1933, p. 140 : Lurio River, northern Portuguese East Africa, are synonyms.

Breeding dress, September–April : Head darker grey than in *H. e. erythroptera*, back more olivaceous-grey and tail more olivaceous-brown ; bill horn or black. Non-breeding dress, June–August : Above less vinous than either *H. e. erythroptera* and *H. e. jodoptera*, bill horn. Length of bill in this race as in *H. e. erythroptera*. Only two out of twenty specimens in breeding dress (Brit. Reg. no. 1933.3.1.1383 and Benson Coll.

no. 354) have blackish or black bills. Wing 47 to 57 mm. Thirty-two specimens examined, including the types of *H. e. rhodoptera* and *H. castanopsis*. In this race the bill in breeding dress is variable but appears to be usually horn. The young bird is a paler and more fluffy example of the adult in non-breeding dress; the bills are variable, from horn to blackish. A young bird from Nyasaland (Benson Coll., no. 193, June) is moulting into adult non-breeding dress.

Distribution.—Western Kenya Colony to Tanganyika Territory, Nyasaland, and Portuguese East Africa.

Heliolais erythroptera major (Blundell & Lovat).

Orthotomus major Blundell & Lovat, Bull. B. O. C. x. 1899, p. 20: Getemma, eastern Abyssinia.

Larger and longer billed than the other races. Breeding dress, June: Above vinous-brown, bill horn. Non-breeding dress, March–April: Above paler vinous-brown, bill horn. Wing 59 to 63 mm. Six specimens examined, including the type.

In this race the bill does not appear to change in breeding and non-breeding dress. An April bird (Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1927.11.5.324) is worn and is showing signs of moulting into breeding dress. It was in song and "breeding shortly."

Distribution.—Abyssinia.

Note.—The breeding and non-breeding months are recorded from the specimens examined, and do not necessarily represent the full period of the breeding and non-breeding season.

White Wagtail off Rockall.

Miss E. P. Leach said that:—

A White Wagtail (*Motacilla a. alba*) ringed in Iceland on June 16, 1928, was reported by Mr. P. Skovgaard, organizer of the Ringing Scheme at Viborg, in Denmark, as having been recovered off Rockall on September 5 of the same year. This record appeared in 'Danske Fugle', 1930, but unfortunately no details are available as to the capture, though it was probably on board a fishing boat.

The Iceland Redwing in Essex.

Mr. P. A. Clancey sent the following note :—

An example of the Iceland Redwing (*Turdus musicus coburni* Sharpe) was obtained near Halstead, Essex, on November 20, 1940. The bird, an adult female with a wing measurement of 119·5 mm., was in exceptionally fine plumage.

This would appear to be the first record for Essex. Mr. Clancey hopes to exhibit the specimen at some future meeting of the Club.

NOTICE.

The next Meeting of the Club will be held at the Rembrandt Hotel, Thurloe Place, S.W. 7, on Saturday, December 13, 1941, at 2 o'clock. This will be preceded by a luncheon at 1 o'clock.

Agenda.

1. Dr. Jul. Borucki will give a lecture, illustrated by lantern-slides, on " Preservation of Nature in pre-war Poland ".
2. Captain C. H. B. Grant will exhibit, on behalf of Mr. J. D. Macdonald, three new races of Longtails from Africa.
3. Captain C. H. B. Grant will exhibit, on behalf of Mr. R. E. Moreau, two new races of Bulbuls from Tanganyika Territory.
4. Captain C. H. B. Grant and Major Mackworth-Praed will exhibit a new genus of Warbler, a new race of Swamp-Warbler and a new race of Moustached Warbler.

3 DEC 1941
PURCHASED

Bird Room.

5 - JAN 1942
PURCHASED

BULLETIN
OF THE
BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. CCCCXL.

The four-hundred-and-thirty-fifth Meeting of the Club was held at the Rembrandt Hotel, Thurloe Place, S.W. 7, on Saturday, December 13, 1941, at 2 P.M.

Chairman : Captain C. H. B. GRANT.

Members present :—Miss P. BARCLAY-SMITH ; Miss M. G. BEST ; A. EZRA ; J. FISHER ; Dr. E. HOPKINSON ; N. B. KINNEAR (*Hon. Sec.*) ; Miss E. P. LEACH ; Dr. G. CARMICHAEL LOW (*Editor*) ; J. H. MCNEILE ; Col. R. MEINERTZHAGEN ; T. H. NEWMAN ; Miss G. M. RHODES ; D. SETH-SMITH ; Dr. A. LANSBOROUGH THOMSON ; Mrs. H. M. BOYD WATT ; H. F. WITHERBY.

Guest of the Club.—Dr. JUL. BORUCKI.

Members, 17 ; Guest of the Club, 1 ; Total, 18.

No meeting of the Club took place in November.

The Preservation of Nature in Pre-War Poland.

Dr. JUL. BORUCKI, lately Reader in Biology in one of the Polish Universities, gave the following lecture, illustrated by lantern-slides.

The importance of the preservation of nature was fully recognized by enthusiasts, as soon as reborn Poland in 1918 began to emerge as an independent state. The deep natural attachment of the Pole to his country's soil contributed towards helping on the work, and it was not long before the efforts of a handful of people were felt throughout the country. When, after the last war, Poland began to control her own land, she had to deal not only with the effects of the last five

years of war, but also with the neglect of this long peroid of over 120 years of occupation, during which the powers in control had troubled little over the particular question of the preservation of nature. Fortunately, there had been a certain tradition of protection, dating from the days of the Old Kingdom of Poland, in connection with certain species of fauna and flora. As early as 1423 King Wladislaw Jagiello had passed laws protecting the Elk, the Wild Horse, and the great yew-forests. King Sigismund, in 1579, had prohibited the hunting of the Aurochs, though in spite of this decree the species had died out in 1625. The Beaver, and later on the Bison, were also protected, hunting-rights becoming an exclusively royal prerogative.

The ideas, therefore, were in existence, rooted in the past, and the initiative of private individuals, men of science and social understanding, revived and encouraged them. They asked themselves what remained of all the splendid heritage of Nature which was once to be found in *all* parts of the country.

While in the rest of Europe modern ideas about the preservation of nature had developed through the nineteenth century, Poland had of necessity remained outside this development. However, immediately after the State's revival in 1919 a Committee for the Preservation of Nature was set up on the initiative of the first Minister of Education, and in 1925 the State Council for Nature Preservation was organized. A law passed by both parliamentary houses in 1934 enabled practical effect to be given to the decisions of this Council. The whole organization originated in the initiative of private individuals, and fortunately remained independent of the Civil Service. The State Council was closely connected with the University of Cracow, and with smaller bodies in each of the larger University towns, while hundreds of small groups were to be found throughout the country. It worked in collaboration, too, with some thirty big organizations representing scientific, economic, and tourist interests, and there were hundreds of local committees, so that even the remotest corners were in contact with the central organization. Before long a series of publications was begun, and this was extended every year.

There are, for example, the eighteen large volumes of Ochrona Przyrody ('The Protection of Wild Nature'), the six annual volumes of the 'Quarterly Bulletin of Information,' a series of monographs and handbooks, and forty-seven separate papers and pamphlets, all beautifully produced with plentiful maps and illustrations. Representatives of the State Council and of local bodies were continually travelling, investigating tirelessly and struggling for the conservation and preservation of what was left of Nature's heritage, threatened by the greed of the speculator. One of their greatest tasks was to build up an inventory of beauty-spots, to schedule interesting forest districts, rock formations, river-banks and the like, and to list rare plants and animals. Maps were put in hand identifying the situation of places preserved.

Poland took an active part in international collaboration, and was represented in sixteen great international institutions concerned with the preservation of Nature. Recently one of the most distinguished in the long line of enthusiasts for our idea was Prof. Michal Siedlecki, the talented Cracow zoologist, who, at the age of 70, died with other prominent Polish scientists in the German concentration camp at Sachenhausen.

There were international meetings, and many guests from abroad came to see the methods applied in Poland. The closest relations were maintained with Czechoslovakia.

The results of all this difficult and self-sacrificing activity were outstanding, and gave Poland one of the foremost places in this field. In 1937 national parks covering an area of 24.000 acres were already established. Shortly before the war the organization of a seventh park in the Tatra mountains was almost finished, while two others in the Polesian marshes and the Eastern Carpathians were laid out. A great number of small *reservations* were also created. These reservations are small areas protected on account of outstanding beauty or the occurrence of interesting plants and animals. At the end of 1936 there were 180 such reservations created, and 68 others laid out, comprising forests, rocks, steppe formations, bogs, and lakes.

Excursions made by officers of the Council and by enthusiasts co-operating with them covered the whole country in search of objects, such as beautiful avenues of trees, parks, single trees of great age, single rocks, springs, and waterfalls. Of such monuments there were registered as many as over 4000, and of these some hundreds were under protection of the law. As I mentioned before, the definite law regulations came rather late in 1934.

One of the first items on the Council's programme was the formation of National Parks. In 1938 six of these parks had been laid out in Poland, in the Bialowieza Forest, the Mountains of the Holy Cross, the Lake District of Ludwikow in Poznania, the Pieniny Range, the Babia Gora, and in the eastern corner of the Carpathian Mountains. A seventh park, in the well-known tourist district of the Tatras, was in planning.

Poland extends in the south as far as the rocky and forested sides of the Carpathians, and descends from their heights in lowering foothills to the great plain, and through the lake region to the sea.

The plain actually gives a prevalent note to the landscape, and we must consider that almost 65–70 per cent. of the population lives on agriculture. Therefore it is understandable that almost every inch of the soil in the western and central part is exploited, and especially intensively in the western part.

Here we see Nature kept under restraint by man ; the beauty of the landscape consists of some forests and many lakes. In such parts of the country even smaller things are worth preserving—*e. g.*, a river bank with old trees. In the neighbourhood of Poznan, a university city of 250,000 inhabitants, a National Park of some lakes surrounded by forests was created mainly for purposes of recreation. But still there are interesting spots of nature in these areas, and they were most intensively investigated and mapped out in the West of Poland : as an example, Pomerania—craftily called by the Germans " The Corridor." This is a poor province, but is rich in natural beauty, with great pine forests and lakes and bogs, the habitat of interesting plants.

In the East, in more primitive conditions, the hand of man is not so much to be seen. In some parts big forests have been preserved, and amongst them shimmer great lakes, attracting an increasing number of tourists who long to breathe in the freshness of nature.

The National Park in the Bialowieza Forest was registered in 1932 by order of the Minister of Agriculture. It was situated in the middle of one of the largest forests in Europe, covering an area of 350,000 square acres. Here there had been a famous royal hunting ground in the days of the Old Kingdom of Poland, well known all over Europe. Bialowieza was famous on account of its Bison, which were here preserved for centuries until the Great War. At the time of the 1914 European war they numbered some 700, but six years of incessant warfare, and the German occupation, completed the destruction of the herd. In 1939, however, some pure-bred Bialowieza Bison were reintroduced from various game parks in Europe where they had been preserved, and their number increased to twenty. Another example of interest was the ancient Horse, the *Equus gmelini sylvatica*, which had inhabited this forest until the middle of the eighteenth century in its natural state. From this species originates the Konik, the little peasant horse still bred in certain districts. Following the suggestion of scientists, pure specimens of this horse were reintroduced into the Bialowieza Forest, where they now live in a state of complete freedom. Other interesting animals are to be found in the gloomy depths of the forest: the Lynx, the Wild Cat, Deer, and Stag in great numbers. A research centre has been created here, and a number of scientific papers have been published in connection with the primeval forest community and its dynamics.

A second National Park was established in the centre of Poland, among the Mountains of the Holy Cross, a range of low altitude. The Park covers some 3000 square acres, and is chiefly distinguished as an example of a primeval fir forest. It is well known and loved, and described by many poets and prose writers on account of its special beauty. It has particular value, as it affords an opportunity for the

study of the natural association of fir and beech close to the northern limit of the latter in Europe.

Further to the south we come to the foothills of the Tatra Mountains where, in the small but impressive cañon of the Dunajec river the luxuriant forest attracts many visitors. This territory covers almost 2000 acres kept under preservation, and is administered by a committee set up jointly by the Czech and Polish Governments, since the district is a frontier one.

Another borderland park has been created in the south-west corner of Poland, in the Babia Gora, comprising magnificent beech and fir forests. This range is famous for the views obtainable from its peaks. This park, too, is a well-known national playground and health resort, particularly for the huge industrial population of Silesia. Thousands of visitors came to it every Sunday to enjoy the magnificent beauty of its open spaces.

If you look from the highest point here southwards you see far away the great granite wall of the Tatra mountains, shimmering through the clouds, and reaching its highest point in the Garluch Peak at 8521 feet. The National Park in the Tatras, although it was not yet officially opened, may perhaps be regarded as the most important of all parks.

Here the existence of a mountain climate at altitudes up to 8500 feet above sea-level, and a great variety of geological structures contribute to the creation of a widely differing condition for the development of the Flora and Fauna in various parts of the range.

A stream of tourists searching for the stillness and grandeur of mountains was flowing steadily. Tourist hotels, well harmonized in structure with the environment, gave centres of rest before lonely wandering in the mountains. Beautiful valleys guide us along rock walls covered with forest into the heart of the mountains. At the edge of the forest there begins the shrub region of the mountain pine, and still higher there are wide pastures where you hear the tinkle of sheep-bells. Higher up the silence of rocks and peaks, with many lakes of crystalline and icy water. From the passes magnificent views of quiet valleys and shimmering lakes are seen.

Passing into the eastern Carpathians we are confronted with Nature in a very different mood.

In the most remote eastern corner, on the Polish Rumanian frontier, the Czarnohora range is covered with forests, in some districts untouched by human hand.

Wild and beautiful rivers like the Czeremosz and Prut are thundering down through valleys, and carrying rafts of valuable timber, masterly guided by the mountaineers. Here is a real sanctuary of wild life; Wolves, Lynx, and Wild Cats still live here; the Bear is estimated at nearly 100 specimens, which live on Deer and Stag.

The tributary of the Prypec river forms the famous Polesie marshes, one of the most exotic corners of Europe. An almost level plain is here the watershed of the tributaries of the Baltic and the Black Sea, forming a gate of many animal movements and invasions. The fall of water is minimal, and the deeper layers of soil impenetrable, therefore the marshes and the curious picture, that flowing waters almost stagnate. Rivers divide in hundreds of branches, meander, and join again, often flowing in the opposite direction as before. Vast territories of many hundred thousands of acres consist of marshy meadows, and some villages and small farms are, in summer time, accessible only by boat or steamer.

This forms a paradise for waterbirds and waterlilies against a background of a phantastic development of shore vegetation.

In the east much interest was turned towards the protection of rare game. Several years passed before the tireless work of the forest administration was able to disarm all the poachers, who had hundreds of guns left here by the demoralized German and Russian armies. In twenty years of peace the game record rose from its decline during and shortly after the war time.

The Elk, famous in the old royal hunting parties, is to be found now only in few parts. The map of its appearance comprises two groups: one in the northern district of Wilno and Grodno, and the other in the south along both banks of the Prypec river. After long endeavours the Elk population has again reached the number of 700, whereas before the first European war there were 4000!

Besides the Elk, Wolves are numerous, and even the Bear appears sometimes. The Beaver, whose disappearance in the western and middle part of Poland occurred in the nineteenth century, still finds a refuge here. Thongh strongly protected, it has not reached a very high number yet; an estimation by the Ministry of Agriculture in 1930 giving its number at 235.

Many wild animals decrease in numbers when they come into contact with the activity of man, but a few others increase. Human settlements especially become the centre of attraction, *e. g.*, for some birds.

Such a species is the Stork, a bird interesting to the biologist, and beloved by the country people. It becomes more numerous as we go eastwards, but careful investigation in recent years showed an increase also in the western part. Ornithologists were mapping out the distribution of Stork populations, and here we see such a map, where dots represent the density of the Stork population in the county of Lwow.

Much attention was given in Poland to the protection of birds. In the last ten years schools have become more and more a great factor, encouraging the youth to love Nature. Let us follow some achievements in this field. In all schools the youths make little bird-boxes and hang them on the trees in the city parks. Certain weeks were dedicated for the propagation of different claims as to the preservation of forests or the respect for animals. Teaching of biology was general, and on the whole of rather good standard. Here is a picture where pupils of an elementary school are observing animals in vivariums. The beauty of Nature was taught; you see drawings of elementary school girls, representing the usage of wild flowers as a decorative. One of the guiding principles in the State school programme was: "The awakening of love for Nature and of respect for its creation." In appreciation of these claims, Riggenbach, a well known Swiss educationist, wrote: "When one considers the attitude of the school towards the protection of wild Nature Poland is at the head of all civilized countries."

Amongst the older members of the population propagandistic activity was carried on by means of lectures and

exhibitions. Efforts were also made to interest the country people living around some of the reservations, and here is a picture showing the opening of a rock reservation with a crowd of country people watching.

This is an outline of the work which has been done in Poland for the preservation of Nature. In my opinion the preservation of Nature means much more than a narrow and purely scientific work. It represents an endeavour to create a balance between the increasing activity of Man, sometimes destructive, and the laws of Nature. It is an acknowledgement of that biological equilibrium, the importance of which is to be seen on all sides, from simple biological facts up to the most complicated phenomena of the social life of Man. The preservation of Nature means, too, a social programme, the return to the soil, a programme for the adequate conservation of resources which centuries have built up, and last, but not least, certain ethical values —a cautious relinking between the heritage of tradition with the demands of progress, the appreciation of the past which existed before the terrible advance of modernisation, with its mass movements, and its tendencies towards the eradication of the weaker and the less well protected. And this brings us to our own day, illustrating my meaning beyond the need of further explanation.

This was the state of affairs until September 1939, and the title of my lecture is actually an epitaph. But the principles remain. These were sound, and as long as principles exist there will always be men to follow them and to keep them alive. I think after this war we shall again go to work to preserve what is left of our country's most precious heritage, the beauty and the splendour with which Nature endowed her.

Three new Races of Long-Tails from Africa.

Mr. J. D. Macdonald sent the following three new races for exhibition :—

Prinia superciliosa desertæ, subsp. nov.

Description.—In breeding dress above more ash-grey, less brown than *Prinia superciliosa superciliosa* Swainson, in non-

breeding dress above brighter and more tawny than *Prinia s. superciliosa* : upper tail-coverts especially brighter tawny.

Distribution.—French Sudan to east-central Anglo-Egyptian Sudan between 9° N. lat. and 16° N. lat.

Type.—In the British Museum. Male adult in breeding dress. Kulme, Darfur, Western Sudan, June 9, 1921, collected by Rear-Admiral H. Lynes. Collector's no. 1620. British Museum Reg. no. 1922.12.8.1221.

Measurements of type.—Wing 54, culmen from base 15, tail 55, tarsus 23 mm.

Remarks.—The distribution of this new race is to the north of that of *Prinia superciliosa superciliosa*, but does not appear to extend west of about Mopti on the Niger, whereas *P. s. superciliosa* extends to Dakar.

Prinia superciliosa bechuanæ, subsp. nov.

Description.—In non-breeding dress upper back and head greyer than *Prinia superciliosa affinis* Smith; also in non-breeding dress.

Distribution.—North-western Bechuanaland.

Type.—In the British Museum. Male adult in non-breeding dress. Mababe Flats, North-western Bechuanaland, August 8, 1909, collected by R. B. Woosnam. Collector's no. 79. British Museum Reg. no. 1911.12.16.102.

Measurements of type.—Wing 49, culmen from base 16, tail 66, tarsus 20 mm.

Remarks.—The series of ten examined are all in non-breeding dress. No specimens in breeding dress are available.

Prinia superciliosa ovampensis, subsp. nov.

Description.—In non-breeding dress similar to *Prinia superciliosa affinis* Smith; also in non-breeding dress, but rather paler brown above, and head paler brown and less streaked.

Distribution.—Damaraland, South-west Africa.

Type.—In the British Museum. Male adult in non-breeding dress. Ovaquenyama, Damaraland. May 23, 1867, collected by C. J. Anderson. Collector's no. 1454. British Museum Reg. no. 1876.5.23.231.

Measurements of type.—Wing 50, culmen from base 15, tail 68, tarsus 22 mm.

Remarks.—The series of six examined are all in non-breeding dress. No specimens in breeding dress are available.

A new Race of Yellow-streaked Bulbul and a new Race of Yellow-moustached Bulbul from Tanganyika Territory.

Mr. R. E. Moreau sent for exhibition the following new races :—

Phyllastrephus flavostriatus kungwensis, subsp. nov.

Description.—Similar to *Phyllastrephus flavostriatus tenuirostris* (Fischer & Reichenow), but differs in being whiter, less grey on chest, and under wing-coverts and inner edging to flight-feathers brighter and clearer lemon-yellow, without any buffy wash ; bill at tip straighter, less curved downwards.

Distribution.—Mountain forests of Kungwe Mt. at 6800 feet, on the east side of Lake Tanganyika.

Type.—In the British Museum. Male adult, forest above Ujamba, Kungwe Mt. at 6800 feet, western Tanganyika Territory, November 17, 1940, collected by Salimu Asmani for R. E. Moreau. Collector's no. 5382.

Measurements of type.—Wing 105, culmen from base 25, tail 105, tarsus 26 mm.

Remarks.—Three other males have wings 97–104 mm., and one female has wing 88 mm.

No specimen of this species has so far been obtained between South Paré Mts., Kilosa, and Kungwe, and it was not obtained by Lynes in the Iringa area.

Stelgidocichla latirostris australis, subsp. nov.

Description.—Similar to *Stelgidocichla latirostris eugenius* Reichenow, but distinctly paler olive-green above, more green in tone.

Distribution.—The highland forest on the edge of the Ufipa Plateau, Tanganyika Territory, overlooking the Lake Rukwa depression from the south.

Type.—In the British Museum. Male, not breeding. Mbisi Forest (about 8000 feet) near Sumbawanga, Ufipa

Disrtict, Tanganyika Territory, June 2, 1941, collected by Salimu Asmani for R. E. Moreau. Collectors' no. 5465.

Measurements of type.—Wing 95, culmen from base 17, tarsus 23, tail 92 mm.

Remarks.—Two other males agree with the type. *S. l. eugenius* has been obtained on Kungwe Mt., south of Kigoma.

I am indebted to Dr. V. G. L. Van Someren for very kindly making comparisons for me.

A new Genus of Red-capped Warbler from Tanganyika Territory.

Capt. C. H. B. Grant and Major C. W. Mackworth-Praed exhibited the type-species of the following proposed new genus :—

Scepomycter, gen. nov.

Description.—General characters very similar to the genus *Artisornis* Friedmann, but differs in the shape of the nostrils. The nostril is practically round, with a small cowl or hood over the upper side formed by an extra horny substance within the nostril depression.

Type of Genus.—*Artisornis winifredæ* Moreau, Bull. B. O. C. lviii. 1938, p. 139.

Remarks.—At the time Mr. Moreau described this species its position in the genus *Artisornis* was doubtful, and although the length of tarsus and tail as compared with the wing was remarked on, the character of the nostrils was not mentioned. There is no doubt that this species is very closely related to *Artisornis* ; but the very distinct difference in the nostrils, together with the length of tarsus and tail compared with the wing, compels us to create a new genus for it.

A new Race of Bracken Warbler from Tanganyika Territory and a new Race of Moustache Warbler from Abyssinia.

Capt. C. H. B. Grant and Major C. W. Mackworth-Praed exhibited and described the following two new races :—

Sathrocercus cinnamomea ufipæ, subsp. nov.

Description.—Similar to *Sathrocercus cinnamomea nyassæ* (Shelley), but differs from that race in having the upper side

including the wings and tail duller, but darker, less dark brown, more dark bronzy-brown, and feathers of head and mantle having indistinctly darker edges ; throat not white, but suffused with olivaceous-brown.

Distribution.—Ufipa Plateau, south-western Tanganyika Territory.

Type.—In the British Museum. Female adult. Mbisi, Sumbawanga, Ufipa Plateau, south-western Tanganyika Territory, 8000 feet, June 2, 1941, collected for R. E. Moreau. Collector's no. 5533.

Measurements of type.—Wing 65, culmen from base 16, tarsus 24, tail 70 mm.

Remarks.—Mr. Moreau states that he has other specimens which agree with the two specimens sent. The other, also an adult female, was collected at the same locality and on the same date ; the wing measures 66, and tail 69 mm.

Melocichla mentalis granviki, subsp. nov.

Description.—Similar to *Melocichla mentalis amauroura* (Pelzeln), but much darker above, more uniform blackish brown.

Distribution.—Western Abyssinia from Wallega to the Omo River Valley.

Type.—In the British Mumseu. Male adult. Wardji, Jimma, south-western Abyssinia. May 3, 1905, collected by P. C. Zaphiro (W. N. Macmillan collection). Collector's no. 101. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1912.10.15.954.

Measurements of type.—Wing 82, culmen from base 22, tail 97, tarsus 32 mm.

Remarks.—Named in honour of Dr. Hugo Granvik, who on p. 110 of Rev. Zool. et Bot. Afr. xxv. 1934, mentioned the characters of this race and designated a type. He did not, however, propose a name, and we cannot find that he subsequently published one.

Notes on Eastern African Birds.

Capt. C. H. B. Grant and Major C. W. Mackworth-Praed sent the following three notes :—

(1) On the Status of *Ortygops macmillani* Bannerman, Bull. B. O. C. xxix. 1911, p. 38 : Charade, south-western Abyssinia :—

In ' The Ibis,' 1877, p. 352, Gurney described *Coturnicops ayresi* from two females, the type dated November 24 having been retained in his own collection. Enquiries made by us have failed to trace this type, and it is not to be found either at the Norwich Museum, nor at the home of the Gurneys. Enquiries have also shown that no South African Museum possesses any specimens.

In 1911 Dr. Bannerman described his new species from Abyssinia, comparing it with *C. ayresi*. The type is in the British Museum, and a close comparison of this male specimen with the Plate VII. in ' The Ibis ' of 1877, and the two female specimens in the British Museum collection, shows that they agree in colour-pattern, size, length of wing, tarsus, and toes, in fact in every particular except in the richer and more uniform coloration of the head, neck, and chest of *O. macmillani*. The bill has been crushed and therefore looks differently shaped, but a close study shows that it would normally have agreed with the bill of *C. ayresi*. This difference in coloration can be taken as sexual, and we feel convinced that *Coturniceps ayresi* and *Ortygops macmillani* are the same bird. As for the widely separated localities, we would point to some of the *Sarothrura* crakes which show equally as wide a distribution, and there would, therefore, be nothing surprising in *C. ayresi* having a distribution from Abyssinia to the eastern Cape Province.

(2) The Distribution of *Apalis murina murina* Reichenow and *Apalis murina youngi* Kinnear :—

Mr. R. E. Moreau has sent to the British Museum two adult male specimens from Sumbawanga, Ufipa Plateau, south-western Tanganyika Territory, collected on June 3–4, 1941, and writes that he has other specimens from Sumbawanga which agree with these two.

In ' The Ibis,' 1938, pp. 528–533, we reviewed this group, giving the distribution of *A. m. murina* to Ukinga Mts.,

Rungwe Mts., Poroto Mts., and north-eastern Northern Rhodesia at the Mafinga Mts., 20 miles south of Fort Hill, and *A. m. youngi* as the Vipya and Nyika Plateaux. These two specimens now received agree with the series of *Apalis m. youngi*, and extends the distribution of that race into Tanganyika Territory. The north-eastern Northern Rhodesian record is a single bird collected by Benson on the Mafinga Mts., and is unquestionably a specimen of *A. m. murina*. The distribution of *A. m. youngi* is now the Ufipa, Nyika, and Vipya Plateaux, with *A. m. murina* forming a salient from the Ukinga, Rungwe, and Poroto Mts., to the Mafinga Mts.

It would appear that the distribution of *A. m. youngi* in north-eastern Northern Rhodesia is west of that of *A. m. murina*, probably *via* the north end of the Muchinga Mts., and the mountains at the south end of Lake Nyasa.

(3) On the Races of *Melocichla mentalis* (Fraser) :—

Sclater, Syst. Av. Æthiop. ii. 1930, p. 567, recognizes five races. Van Someren, Nov. Zool. xxix. 1922, p. 206, states that *Melocichla mentalis orientalis* Sharpe is darker and richer in colour than the Uganda bird, brings this race into Kenya Colony; and places *Melocichla atricauda* Reichenow as a synonym of *Melocichla mentalis amauroura* (Pelzeln). Granvik, Rev. Zool. et Bot. Afr. xxv. 1934, p. 110, pointed out the difference in the Abyssinian bird, designated a type, but did not propose a name. Bannerman, Bds. Trop. W. Afr. v. 1939, p. 212, has placed *Melocichla mentalis adamauæ* Reichenow as a synonym of *Melocichla mentalis mentalis* (Fraser). There is some individual variation, and there is considerable fading between fresh and worn specimens, but an examination of the series in the British Museum collection shows that six races can be recognized on good general characters, and that both the Ruwenzori and Abyssinian birds are distinct races :—

Melocichla mentalis mentalis (Fraser).

Drymoica mentalis Fraser, P. Z. S. 1843, p. 16 : Accra, Gold Coast, of which *Melocichla mentalis adamauæ* Reichenow,

O. M. 1910, p. 175: Adamawa, northern Cameroon, is a synonym.

Above ashy brown; below warm brown, throat and centre of belly white or whitish. Wing 71 to 80 mm. Twenty-four specimens examined.

Distribution.—Portuguese Guinea to French Equatorial Africa and the Belgian Congo.

MELOCICHLA MENTALIS GRANDIS (Boc.).

Drymoica (*Cisticola*) *grandis* Bocage, Jorn. Lisboa, vii. 1880, p. 56: Caconda, Angola.

Above warm brown. Wing 75–83 mm. Nine specimens examined. We have not examined specimens from Angola, but Lynes states in Rev. Zool. Bot. Afr. xxxi. 1938, p. 95, that his south-eastern Congo specimens are not separable from the Angolan bird.

Distribution.—Angola to Nyasaland.

MELOCICHLA MENTALIS AMAUROURA (Pelz.).

Argya amauroura Pelzeln, Verh. Zool. Bot. Ges. Wein, xxxii. March 1883, p. 503: Fadibek, northern Uganda.

Above similar to *M. m. mentalis*, but forehead and rump not quite so bright; below paler, with more white on throat and breast to belly. Wing 70 to 81 mm. Fifty-seven specimens examined. We are quite unable to see any character by which Uganda and Kenya Colony specimens can be separated and therefore are unable to agree with van Someren that Kenya Colony specimens are darker than Uganda birds. In any case *M. m. orientalis* is paler than either Uganda or Kenya Colony birds.

Distribution.—Southern Sudan and north-eastern Belgian Congo to Uganda (except Ruwenzori area), Ruanda, Urundi, Kenya Colony, and western Tanganyika Territory as far south as Kigoma.

MELOCICHLA MENTALIS ORIENTALIS (Sharpe).

Cisticola orientalis Sharpe, Cat. Bds. B. M. vii. July 1883, p. 245: Pangani River, Usambara, eastern Tanganyika Territory.

Above paler, more russet-brown. Wing 73 to 77 mm. Five specimens examined including the type.

Distribution.—Tanganyika Territory from the Pangani River to Pugu Hills, Kilosa and Njombe.

Melocichla mentalis atricauda Reichw.

Melocichla atricauda Reichenow, O. M. 1893, p. 61 : Nkondjo, Ndussuma, Semliki Valley, eastern Belgian Congo.

Above darker. more blackish brown. Wing 74 to 81 mm. Twelve specimens examined.

Distribution.—Semliki Valley, eastern Belgian Congo and Ruwenzori area, western Uganda.

Melocichla mentalis granviki Grant & Praed.

Melocichla mentalis granviki C. Grant & Mackworth-Praed, Bull. B. O. C. lxii. 1941, p. 31 : Wardji, Jimma, south-western Abyssinia.

Much darker above than any other race, more uniform blackish brown. Wing 76 to 82 mm. Nine specimens examined including the type.

Distribution.—Western Abyssinia from Wallega to the Omo River Valley.

Two new Races of Smithornis capensis (Eurylaimidæ) from Kenya Colony.

Mr. V. G. L. van Someren sent the following descriptions of two new Eastern African races :—

(1) **Smithornis capensis shimba,** subsp. nov.

Description.—Nearest geographically to *S. c. suahelicus* Grote, *S. c. chyulu* (described hereafter), and *S. c. medianus* Hartert and van Someren. Differs from *S. c. suahelicus* and the other two races mentioned by its colder, greyer, olive-brown mantle, rump, upper tail-coverts, edges to rectrices, secondaries and lesser coverts ; its less ochreous wash to the sides of the neck, chest, and flanks ; its light grey, almost white-streaked ear-coverts ; its whiter under tail-coverts. Comparison of males shows that the crown is of a deeper black ; the ear-coverts strongly white-streaked ; the mantle has larger and very pronounced black areas, whilst the white sub-areas are much more extended and often exposed as detailed later. From *medianus* it is at once distinguished by its colder greyish-

olive, less brownish-olive mantle; by its larger, more conspicuous black mantle spots and greater extent of the white sub-areas; by its whiter ear-coverts; less ochreous wash on sides of neck, chest, and flanks; by its more sparse, narrower dark streaks on the underside. It is considerably smaller throughout.

Female.—Crown greyer; lores paler; ear-coverts whiter; the other areas differing as indicated in the male.

Distribution.—Known only from the Shimba Hills.

Type.—Breeding male, Shimba Hills, Makadara Forest, 19. iii. 1941. Paratypes: five males, three females, all breeding birds.

Measurements of type.—Wings 66, variation in series 64–67 mm.

Remarks.—This Broadbill was common in the Makadara Forest and other forest patches on the Shimba hills at 1100 feet. They were associated with the mid-growth for the most part, and were frequently noted performing their short circular aerial flight accompanied by their characteristic rattling noise. This noise appears to be both mechanical and vocal. The display took place most frequently just at dawn and for an hour or so after, and again in the evening as the sun was setting. Occasionally the note was heard before noon, but seldom between then and evening.

A conspicuous feature of the display was the complete exposure of the white dorsal sub-area, the feathers being parted, exposing a wide white patch outlined in black. This white area was exposed in flight apart from display, and on many occasions remained exposed while the bird sat motionless.

All the birds showed signs of breeding; the males had swollen gonads and the females enlarged ovaries; one had a fully formed egg in the oviduct. This last bird was shot at the nest which held one pure white egg. The nest (several were found) is an untidy structure constructed of long strips of bark, strips of dead Cycad leaves, intermixed with horse-hair-like fungi flung over a horizontal branch or twig of a sapling hardly more than four feet from the ground. Within this hanging mass the nest is made of bark, leaves, forest debris, and lined with finer fibre. The entrance is toward the top and to the side, within the loop of overslung material.

It resembles somewhat, a large, very untidy Sunbird's nest. The egg is smooth, shiny, and measures 19×15 mm.

It is of interest to recall the fact that birds from the Amani Range collected by Moreau were originally assigned to the race *S. c. medianus*, but were subsequently identified as *S. c. suahelicus* Grote. There is, indeed, a similarity between *suahelicus* and *medianus*, but they are distinct; however, the differences between them are not so great as between either of them and the race now described. The type and paratypes are in my collection.

(2) **Smithornis capensis chyulu,** subsp. nov.

Description.—Nearest to *S. c. suahelicus* in point of size and general coloration, but differing from that race in having the basal half of the ear-coverts dirty white, and forming a patch; in having the dorsal black marks more conspicuous, thus larger, whilst the white sub-area is more extended.

Distribution.—The Chyulu Range.

Type.—Male Chyulu Range, 5000 feet, 23. iv. 1938, in the Coryndon Museum.

Remarks.—Four birds were noted in a patch of *Catha edulis*. The breeding season was over and gonads were soft.

Races of Black-headed Babbler in Ceylon.

Mr. Hugh Whistler forwarded the following note on the races of the Black-headed Babbler in Ceylon :—

Legge ('Birds of Ceylon,' p. 507), treating of the bird which he called the Ceylon Wren-Babbler (*Alcippe nigrifrons*), and listed as peculiar to Ceylon, pointed out that there was a marked difference in the tint of the upper surface according to the locality which it inhabits. Birds from the south of the island and from the Western Province (that is the low country wet zone) are rusty-brown in colour above, whilst birds from the hill zone and the low country dry zone are decidedly olivaceous on the corresponding parts. The two types of coloration are figured by Legge in a coloured plate. The occurrence of two races in the dry and wet zones respectively in Ceylon is a feature of many species in the island, and an exact parallel as regards colours is found, as Legge remarked, in the Scimitar-Babbler (*Pomatorhinus horsfieldi*). The difference pointed out by Legge has been confirmed by 29 specimens

collected in different parts of the island in the Ornithological Survey carried out before the war by the British Museum and Colombo Museum in collaboration, and I am of opinion that it should be recognized by the division of Ceylon birds into two races, which will stand as races of the Black-headed Babbler (*Rhopocichla atriceps*) from the Western Ghats of India.

There is nothing to show which form Blyth had before him when he described his *Alcippe nigrifrons*, J. A. S. B. vol. xviii. 1849, p. 815.—Ceylon. His specimen came from Layard, who collected in both the dry and wet zones.

I propose, therefore, to restrict this type-locality to Uragaha, near the boundary of the Western and Southern Provinces, and use the name for the richly coloured bird of the low country wet zone. For the dry country and hill form I propose the name :—

Rhopocichla atriceps siccatus, subsp. nov.

Description.—Similar to *R. a. nigrifrons*, but the fulvous-brown of the upper parts, wings, and tail is olivaceous-fulvous instead of a more saturated rusty fulvous, and the brown of the lower flanks, vent, and under tail-coverts is olivaceous-brown as compared with earth-brown.

Distribution.—Ceylon : Hill zone and low country dry zones. Common and generally distributed.

Type.—Female. Deposited in the British Museum, no. 1064, Ceylon Avifaunal Survey, Kalaweva, North Central Province, Ceylon.

Measurements of type.—Bill 15, wing 59, tail 45 mm.

White Wagtail off Rockall.

Mr. W. E. Glegg sent the following note :—

At a meeting of the Club, held on October 18, 1941, Miss E. P. Leach stated that a White Wagtail (*Motacilla a. alba*), ringed in Iceland on June 16, 1928, was reported by Mr. P. Skovgaard as having been found off Rockall on September 5 of the same year, but that no details of the capture are available.

The story of this interesting recovery is as follows. I received from my brother, who lives in Aberdeen, a letter dated September 5, 1928, enclosing a ring, which had been

given to him by a man on an Aberdeen Line boat. The ring had been taken from a small bird, which had flown exhausted on to the boat when it was fishing at Rockall, 240 miles west by north of the Butt of Lewis. From the description of the bird given by the man my brother assumed that the bird was a wagtail. The particulars of this recovery were sent by me to Mr. P. Skovgaard. It is certain that the ring must have been recovered earlier than September 5, 1928, as that is the date of my brother's letter, but no further information is available (*cf.* 'The Scottish Naturalist,' 1931, p. 84).

NOTICE.

The next meeting of the Club will be held at the Rembrandt Hotel, Thurloe Place, S.W. 7, on Saturday, February 21, 1942, at 2 o'clock. This will be preceded by a luncheon at 1 o'clock.

Agenda.

Capt. C. H. B. Grant will exhibit on behalf of Mr. R. E. Moreau a new race of Slaty Flycatcher, and a new race of Negro-Finch.

PURCHASED

Bird Room.

21 MAR 1942
PURCHASED

BULLETIN
OF THE
BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. CCCCXLI.

The four-hundred-and-thirty-sixth Meeting of the Club was held at the Rembrandt Hotel, Thurloe Place, S.W. 7, on Saturday, February 21, 1942, at 2 P.M.

Chairman : Mr. B. W. TUCKER.

Members present :—Miss P. BARCLAY-SMITH ; F. J. F. BARRINGTON ; A. EZRA ; Miss E. M. GODMAN ; Capt. C. H. B. GRANT (*Vice-Chairman*) ; Dr. E. HOPKINSON ; N. B. KINNEAR (*Hon. Sec.*) ; Miss E. P. LEACH ; Dr. G. CARMICHAEL LOW (*Editor*) ; T. H. NEWMAN ; W. L. SCLATER ; Dr. A. LANDSBOROUGH THOMSON ; Mrs. H. W. BOYD WATT ; H. WHISTLER.

Guests of the Club.—Miss L. P. GRANT ; D. LACK.

Members, 15 ; Guests 2 ; Total, 17.

No Meeting of the Club took place in January.

Length of Life in Robins.

Mr. DAVID LACK gave an interesting talk upon the longevity of wild Robins ; this was followed by a discussion, in which several members took part.

New Races of Slaty Flycatcher, Bracken-Warbler, and Grey-headed Negro-Finch from Tanganyika Territory.

Mr. R. E. MOREAU sent the following three new races for exhibition :—

Dioptrornis fischeri ufipæ, subsp. nov.

Description.—Similar to *Dioptrornis fischeri fischeri* Reichenow in having a complete white ring round the eye, but

slate colour above is paler, very close to *Dioptrornis fischeri nyikensis* Shelley, but has the chin, throat and belly much whiter than either *D. f. fischeri* or *D. f. nyikensis*.

Distribution.—Ufipa Plateau, south-western Tanganyika Territory.

Type.—In the British Museum. Male adult. Mbisi Forest Sumbawanga, Ufipa Plateau 8000 feet, south-western Tanganyika Territory, June 16, 1941; collected for R. E. Moreau. Collector's no. 5464.

Measurements of type.—Wing 93, culmen from base 19, tail 79, tarsus 27 mm.

Remarks.—An adult female collected at the same place on June 5, 1941 (collector's no. 5460), has a wing of 90 mm.

In the Benson collection is a male from Vipya Plateau (collector's no. 1140) which still retains young markings. This specimen agrees in the whiteness of the chin to belly with this new race, but this is the only specimen from Nyasaland showing this character.

Bradypterus alfredi kungwensis, subsp. nov.

Description.—Similar to *Bradypterus alfredi albicrissalis* Neumann, but upper side dark olivaceous brown, not the warm russet colour of *B. a. albicrissalis*; flanks darker and under tail-coverts with less white edging.

Distribution.—Bamboo areas of Kungwe Mt., 7600 feet, western Tanganyika Territory.

Type.—In the British Museum. Male adult. Bamboos above Ujamba, Kungwe Mt., at 7600 feet, western Tanganyika Territory. August 18, 1941; collected for R. E. Moreau. Collector's no. 5655.

Measurements of type.—Wing 58, culmen from base 17, tail 53, tarsus 24 mm.

Remarks.—A perfect female and two other rather badly shot specimens agree with this male. I have been unable to examine specimens of *B. a. alfredi* Hartlaub, of which, apparently, only the type is known; but judging by the description of *B. a. albicrissalis*, the type of which is in the British Museum, the upper parts do not differ.

This new race is from a locality some 430 miles due south of the locality of *B. a. albicrissalis*, and *B. a. alfredi* is found some 100 to 200 miles due north of *B. a. albicrissalis*.

Nigrita canicapilla candida, subsp. nov.

Description.—Differs from all other races of the species in that the entire hind crown, nape and upper edge of the mantle are nearly white, as pale as the rump, and well defined from the grey of the back.

Distribution.—Forest at Ujamba, 6700 feet, Kungwe Mt., Kigoma District, Tanganyika Territory.

Type.—In the British Museum. Male adult. Ujamba Kungwe Mt., August 16, 1941; collected by Salemin Asumani for R. E. Moreau. Collector's no. 5657.

Measurements of type.—Wing 70, culmen 12, tail 50, tarsus 20 mm.

A new Race of Blue Swallow from Tanganyika Territory.

Captain C. H. B. Grant and Major C. W. Mackworth-Praed exhibited and described the following new race :—

On *Hirundo atrocærulea* Sundevall : with the description of a new race.

Lynes, in J. f. O. 1934, p. 99, invites attention to the possibility of there being two races of this Swallow, one breeding in South Africa and migrating northwards in the non-breeding season, and the other a resident race in Tanganyika Territory and Nyasaland.

In the light of these remarks we have carefully examined the thirty-two specimens in the British Museum collection, including the type of *Hirundo christyi**, Bull. B. O. C. xvi.

* This type is in the British Museum (Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1906.1.21.17), and the collector's label bears "No. 54, male, 11. ix. 1905, Kungu Hill, Mabira Forest, Chagwe," whereas in the Bull. B. O. C. xvi. 1906, p. 86, the date is given as 7. viii. 1905. This is a serious discrepancy for the designation of a type. At the back of the collector's label, in Dr. Bowdler Sharpe's handwriting, is "*Hirundo christyi* Sharpe Type", which proves that this specimen is the one described by Sharpe, and that therefore the day and month given in the original description are inaccurate. This specimen is an adult in fresh dress, and is the steely-blue *H. atrocærulea atrocærulea*.

1906, p. 86: Mabira Forest, and this series does support Lynes' findings.

Most authors, except Roberts, Bds. S. Afr. 1940, state that this Swallow is in South Africa from October–March, and breeding records are within these months.

Priest, Bds. S. Rhodesia, iii. 1935, p. 296, states that it is a migrant in Southern Rhodesia, having obtained it in October, and a specimen in the British Museum collection (Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1910.7.1.322) from S. Rhodesia is dated August. Sclater, Bds. S. Afr. iii. 1901, p. 294, gives Ayres as authority for the occurrence of this bird in South Africa in August, November, December, March, and April. Ayres' months of August and April are not, so far as we know, supported by specimens. Belcher, Bds. Nyasaland, 1930, p. 250, records it as breeding in October; Lynes records it as breeding in southern Tanganyika Territory in November and December; Bangs & Loveridge (Bull. Mus. Comp. Zoöl. lxxv. 3, 1933, p. 201) record it as breeding at Dabaga, Kigogo, and Bulongwa in January and February, and van Someren, Ibis, 1916, p. 375, records it as breeding in Uganda in May.

Van Someren's, Lynes', and Roberts' descriptions of the nest and eggs do not agree, the former stating that the nest is like that of *Hirundo puella* (=*H. abyssinica unitatis* Scl. & M.-Praed), *i. e.*, funnel-shaped, and attached to the underside of a rock, etc., and the eggs as white; Lynes states that the nest and eggs are similar to that of *Hirundo rustica rustica* Linn., *i. e.*, cup-shaped, and Roberts, Bds. S. Afr. 1940, p. 207, gives the nest as similar to that of *Hirundo smithii smithii* Leach, *i. e.*, an open cup nest, and the eggs as delicately marked with yellowish brown, brown, and slate-blue.

Sclater, Jackson's Bds. Kenya Colony and Uganda, iii. 1938, p. 1144, casts considerable doubt on van Someren's record, and quotes both Colonel Sparrow and Millar as stating that the nest is cup-shaped.

This evidence is, we consider, conclusive, and van Someren's record must be deleted.

There is sufficient evidence to show that *Hirundo atrocærulea* breeds in south-eastern Africa and migrates north-

wards as far as Uganda in the non-breeding season, and this is further supported by the four Uganda specimens we have been able to examine, a fully-grown young bird in April and three adults in moult in June and July. The August adult male from S. Rhodesia is worn and faded, but not yet moulting, and a November adult male (Benson, no. 867) from the Nyika Plateau is in fresh dress with "testes life-size," and is possibly a late migrant moving south. It is certainly a steel-blue colour, with no violet wash. A specimen from Natal (Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1874.5.1.278) is more violet than steel-blue, but is worn and is not quite the bright violet of the Tanganyika Territory race, and it should be noted that worn and faded birds are inclined to go bronzy, especially on the mantle.

We therefore have two races of this Swallow, one breeding in Southern Africa and moving northwards to Uganda after the breeding season, and the other a resident in southern Tanganyika Territory and Nyasaland. This latter requires a name, and we propose for it

Hirundo atrocærulea lynesi, subsp. nov.

Description.—Similar to *Hirundo atrocærulea atrocærulea* Sundevall, but with a violet wash.

Distribution.—South Tanganyika Territory (Dabaga, Kigogo, Bulongwa, and Njombe) to Nyasaland (Vipya Plateau and Mlanji Plateau).

Type.—In the British Museum. Male adult. Njombe, southern Tanganyika Territory, November 24, 1931; collected by Rear-Admiral H. Lynes. Collector's no. 2084.

Measurements of type.—Wing 112, culmen from base 10, tail 126, tarsus 13 mm.

Remarks.—Seven adult males, six adult females, and one fully-fledged young bird examined. Named in honour of Rear-Admiral Hubert Lynes. As the two races occur in Nyasaland, and Benson obtained both, *i. e.*, his November 7 bird (Nyika Plateau) being *H. a. atrocærulea*, and the February 27 bird (Vipya Plateau) being this new race, his earliest and latest dates need further investigation.

Notes on Eastern African Birds.

Captain C. H. B. Grant and Major C. W. Mackworth-Praed sent the following seven notes :—

(1) On the Type-locality of *Pogonias minor* Cuvier, Reg. An. i. 1817, p. 428.

Cuvier gives no locality, but this name is founded on Levaillant, Ois. Paradis, ii. 1806, pl. A, p. 85, who gives coasts of South Africa, and states that this bird was " brought recently from the coasts of South Africa by a traveller whose collection passed into my cabinet."

Pogonias minor Cuvier is now used for *Lybius levaillantii levaillantii* (*Bucco levaillantii*) Vieillot, N. Dict. d'Hist. Nat. iii. 1816, p. 243 : Africa, which is preoccupied by *Bucco levaillanti* Gmelin, Gem. Nat. 1806, p. 177, pl. xvi. fig. 35 : East Indies.

The distribution of *Lybius minor minor* is Landana, the valley of the Lower Congo and Northern Angola.

Levaillant gives no clue as to whom this traveller was, or in what direction he travelled on the coasts of South Africa, and we must therefore presume that he obtained this bird at one of the Angolan ports of call, probably Luanda. Although Angola is hardly within the " coasts of South Africa," we are compelled to fix the type-locality of *Lybius minor minor* (Cuvier) as Northern Angola, this being its most southern known range.

(2) On the Distribution of *Eremomela scotops* Sundevall in Eastern Africa.

In the Bull. B. O. C. lxi. 1941, p. 65, we gave a short comparative description of each race, and now find that through some extraordinary oversight inaccurate descriptions appeared in print.

Under *Eremomela scotops scotops* Sund. the description should read :—" Chin white, rest of underparts yellow " : not " Chin to chest yellow, breast and belly white."

Under *Eremomela scotops citriniceps* (Reichw.) the description should read :—" Chin to chest yellow, breast to belly white, green of head brighter and extending to nape " : NOT " Grey of mantle extending on to occiput."

Mr. Moreau has recently sent to the British Museum a specimen of *E. s. citriniceps* from the Ufipa Plateau (collector's no. 5569), which extends the distribution from the Iringa District westwards to Lake Tanganyika, and in the Pakenham collection is one from Kigoma, western Tanganyika Territory (collector's no. T.T. 44).

(3) On the exact Type-locality of *Cisticola chiniana ukamba* Lynes, Ibis, Suppl. 1930, p. 267.

Lynes gave this name as a nom. nov. for *Cisticola semifasciata* van Someren, Nov. Zool. xxix. 1922, p. 210, NOT *Cisticola semifasciata* Reichenow, Vög. Afr. iii. 1905, p. 544 : Mlanje Plateau, southern Nyasaland ; and gives type-locality as Ukamba Province, Kenya Colony.

As the Ukamba Province is a rather large area, we are of opinion that a more exact locality should be designated, and we find that the first place mentioned by van Someren within this province is Simba (p. 211). We therefore propose to fix the exact type-locality of *Cisticola chiniana ukamba* Lynes as Simba, southern Ukamba Province, south-eastern Kenya Colony.

(4) On the Relationship of *Hirundo rustica rustica* Linnæus, *Hirundo lucida* Verreaux, and *Hirundo angolensis* Bocage.

Meinertzhagen, Nicoll's Bds. of Egypt, i. 1930, p. 306, suggests that these Swallows are conspecific. We agree that *H. lucida* should be placed as a race of *H. rustica*, as they are so similar as to be difficult to separate in the field, and the nesting habits of *H. lucida* are also similar, placing its nest on a beam.

H. angolensis, on the other hand, builds a nest similar to that of the European House-Martin, and, therefore, is not a close relation of *H. lucida*, and we do not consider it is a race of this species.

(5) On the Races of *Hirundo senegalensis* Linnæus.

Sclater, Syst. Av. Æthiop. ii. 1930, p. 579, recognizes four races, and the same author in Jackson's Bds. Kenya Colony and Uganda, 1938, p. 1147, recognizes *Hirundo senegalensis aschani* Granvik, and on p. 1149 throws considerable doubt on the validity of *Hirundo senegalensis hybrida* van Someren.

Van Someren, Nov. Zool. xxix. 1922, p. 91, gives his *H. s. hybrida* a distribution over Kenya Colony and Tanganyika Territory, and brings *H. s. senegalensis* to Abyssinia, Uganda and western Kenya Colony. Bannerman, Bull. B. O. C. xliii. 1923, p. 86, recognizes four races, but gives no definite distribution, and remarks that Uganda, Kenya Colony and South Abyssinia specimens are more difficult to name.

We have examined the good series in the British Museum collection, and find that the type of *H. s. saturatior* is a not fully adult female, still retaining the light edges to the inner secondaries, and though it has a particularly dark throat, another adult female from Kpong has a much lighter throat, and agrees with some specimens from Cameroon, French Equatorial Africa, Uganda, Southern Sudan and Abyssinia. Most females are darker on the throat than most males, but this is not a constant character. The darker coloration in *H. s. saturatior* of the breast to under tail-coverts as compared with *H. s. senegalensis* agrees perfectly with the series as far east as Abyssinia, and in Uganda and Kenya Colony except the southern areas. We are therefore of opinion that *H. s. aschani* must be placed as a synonym of *H. s. saturatior*.

We agree with Sclater that *H. s. hybrida* cannot be recognized, as it is based on intermediates between *H. s. monteiri* and *H. s. saturatior*. Moreover, it is only found where the above two races meet. We find intermediates occurring between *H. s. senegalensis* and *H. s. saturatior* at Nahud, Jebel Melbis and El Obeid in the Kordofan area of the Sudan. We are able to recognize three races as follows :—

Hirundo senegalensis senegalensis Linnaeus.

Hirundo senegalensis Linnæus, Syst. Nat. 12th ed. i. 1766, p. 345 : Senegal.

No white in tail. Breast to under tail-coverts deep tawny. Wing 142 to 158 mm. Twenty-six specimens examined.

Distribution.—Senegal to the Kordofan area of the Sudan, where some specimens show the darker coloration of breast to under tail-coverts of *H. s. saturiator*.

HIRUNDO SENEGALENSIS SATURATIOR Bann.

Hirundo senegalensis saturatior Bannerman, Bull. B. O. C. xliii. 1923, p. 85: Accra, Gold Coast; of which *Hirundo senegalensis aschani* Granvik, Rev. Zool. et Bot. Afr. xxv. 1934, p. 113: Mt. Elgon, is a synonym.

Differs from *H. s. senegalensis* in being much darker below, more chestnut, from breast to under tail-coverts. Wing 137 to 154 mm. Fifty-eight specimens examined, including the type of *H. s. saturatior*.

Distribution.—Gold Coast to Cameroon, French Equatorial Africa as far north as Miltu a few miles north of Fort Archambault lower Shari River, southern and eastern Sudan, Abyssinia, Uganda and Kenya Colony except southern areas.

HIRUNDO SENEGALENSIS MONTEIRI Hartl.

Hirundo monteiri Hartlaub, Ibis, 1862, p. 340, pl. xi.: Angola; of which *Hirundo senegalensis hybrida* van Someren, Bull. B. O. C. xli. 1921, p. 104: Tsavo, Kenya Colony, is a synonym.

White in tail, decreasing in southern Kenya Colony, especially at Ithanga. Wing 137 to 152 mm. Forty-eight specimens examined, including the type of *Hirundo monteiri*.

Distribution.—Angola as far north as Landana, southern Belgian Congo to southern Maniema District, Tanganyika Territory, and southern Kenya Colony from Narossura, Ithanga and Takaungu to Damaraland, Northern Rhodesia and Portuguese East Africa as far south as Inhambane.

(6) On the Relationship of *Ptyonoprogne fuligula* (Lichtenstein), *Ptyonoprogne rufigula* (Fischer & Reichenow), and *Ptyonoprogne obsoleta* (Cabanis).

Sclater, Syst. Av. Æthiop. ii. 1930, pp. 584–586, has kept

these three as separate species. Hartert, Nov. Zool. 1921, p. 112, suggests that *P. fuligula* and *P. obsoleta* can be placed together, and Sclater & Mackworth-Praed, Ibis, 1918, p. 716, place *P. fuligula* and *P. rufigula* together. Meinertzhagen, Nicoll's Bds. Egypt, i. 1930, p. 310, suggests that all three may be placed under *Ptyonoprogne rupestris* (Scopoli).

Our examination of this question shows that *Ptyonoprogne rupestris* and *Ptyonoprogne obsoleta* cannot be joined together as Tristram, Fauna & Flora Palest. 1884, p. 62, states that they were both breeding in the same cave at the Jebel Quaratania, not races interbreeding, as inferred by Meinertzhagen (p. 311).

Ptyonoprogne obsoleta occurs from south-eastern Egypt to British Somaliland, and therefore probably occurs in Eritrea, where *Ptyonoprogne rufigula* is also found, and until the exact breeding distribution of these two are known they should be treated as different species.

We agree with Sclater and Mackworth-Praed that *Ptyonoprogne fuligula* and *Ptyonoprogne rufigula* can be treated as conspecific, as there appears to be no overlap in distribution, and although *P. fuligula* is a larger bird than *P. rufigula*, they have the same general characteristics.

(7) On the Status of *Ptyonoprogne rufigula fusciventris* Vincent, Bull. B. O. C. liii. 1933, p. 143 : Namuli Mts., northern Portuguese East Africa.

We have carefully compared the type and the other adult male specimen with the series of twenty-five males in the British Museum collection from Northern Nigeria, French Equatorial Africa, Northern Belgian Congo, Southern Sudan, Abyssinia, Uganda, Kenya Colony, Tanganyika Territory and Nyasaland. We find a certain amount of individual variation in coloration, and the characters given by Vincent are to be found in specimens much farther north. Wing measurements of males also show considerable variation, and those of *P. r. fusciventris*, 111–112 mm. (two males), are not different to those from farther north, *i. e.*, Uganda, 112 mm. (one male), French Equatorial Africa, 109–115 mm. (two males), and

Southern Sudan, 111–117 mm. (four males). Two Kenya Colony males are 115–121 mm., Abyssinia 117 mm. (one male), and Northern Nigeria 112–116 mm. (four males); and at first sight it would appear that Kenya Colony males might be larger than those from northern Portuguese East Africa, Nyasaland and southern Tanganyika Territory, but Nyasaland males (two) measure 111–117 mm., and southern Tanganyika Territory males (four) measure 113–117 mm., and thus show a complete overlap of wing measurements in all areas. We are therefore of opinion that *Ptyonoprogne rufigula fusciventris* Vincent, should become a synonym of *Ptyonoprogne fuligula rufigula* (Fischer & Reichenow).

On the Races of Pomatorhinus horsfieldii Sykes in Ceylon.

Mr. Hugh Whistler sent the following note on the races of Horsfield's Scimitar-Babbler in Ceylon :—

Blyth (J. A. S. B. vol. xvi. 1847, p. 451) separated the Scimitar-Babbler of Ceylon from the Indian bird, *Pomatorhinus horsfieldii* Sykes (Western Ghats) under the name of *Pomatorhinus melanurus*, but it was reserved for Holdsworth (P. Z. S. 1872, p. 448) to point out that two birds of very different colouring —one ferruginous and the other olive—were included under the latter name. This fact was again commented on by Wardlaw-Ramsay (Ibis, 1878, p. 132), by Legge ('Birds of Ceylon,' p. 502), and Harington (J. B. N. H. S. vol. xxiii. p. 334). Legge considered the two types sufficiently different to be worth figuring in his great book, and he also pointed out that the bright ferruginous bird belonged to the Low Country Wet Zone of South-west Ceylon, whilst the olive bird inhabited the Low Country Dry Zone and the Hill Zone. These facts have recently been confirmed by the fine collection of birds made in the Survey carried out under the auspices of the British and the Colombo Museums. The case is, of course, parallel to those of *Rhopocichla atriceps* and *Pellorneum fuscocapillum*, which have similarly distributed races.

In naming *Pomatorhinus melanurus* Blyth gave no other locality than Ceylon, but his specimens came from Dr. Templeton, who received them from Layard. This fact, combined with the original description, which evidently refers to the ferruginous bird, leads me to restrict the type-locality to Urugaha (south of Kalutara), and therefore, the name to the ferruginous bird. For the olivaceous bird I propose the name

Pomatorhinus horsfieldii holdsworthi, subsp. nov.

Description.—Similar to *P. h. melanurus*, but the upper parts, flanks and wings (that is, those parts which are ferruginous in *melanurus*) olivaceous brown, faintly tinged with rusty on the sides of the hind neck and on the rump.

Type.—Survey no. 317, male, December 1, 1936. Ohiya, 5800 feet, Central Hill Zone, Ceylon. Bill 27·5, wing 90·5, tail 87, tarsus 32 mm.

NOTICE.

The next meeting of the Club will be held at the Rembrandt Hotel, Thurloe Place, S.W. 7, on Friday (not Saturday, as usual), April 24, 1942, at 2 o'clock, after a luncheon at 1 o'clock.

It is proposed to hold the combined meeting of the Club with the British Ornithologists' Union, which took place in April last year, on Saturday, June 6, 1942. Further details of this will be announced later.

21 MAR 1942
PURCHASED

Brief Room

22 MAY 1942
PURCHASED

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. CCCCXLII.

The four-hundred-and-thirty-seventh Meeting of the Club was held in the Board Room of the British Museum (Natural History) on Friday, April 24, 1942, at 2 P.M.

Chairman : Captain C. H. B. GRANT.

Members present :—Miss C. M. ACLAND ; Miss M. G. S. BEST ; J. FISHER ; Dr. E. HOPKINSON ; Dr. N. H. JOY ; N. B. KINNEAR (*Hon. Sec.*) ; Miss E. P. LEACH ; Dr. CARMICHAEL LOW (*Editor*) ; T. H. NEWMAN ; W. L. SCLATER ; D. SETH-SMITH.

Members, 12 ; Guests, 0 ; Total, 12.

Owing to Government restrictions it was not possible to hold the usual luncheon preceding the Meeting.

No Meeting of the Club took place in March.

An interesting Specimen of Certhia familiaris collected in East Suffolk.

Mr. P. A. CLANCEY sent the following note :—

On March 18, 1941, a very pale example of *Certhia familiaris* was shot at Martlesham, Woodbridge, Suffolk. This bird has been compared with an extremely long series from Sweden, Norway, Russia, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, France, England, Scotland, Wales and Ireland, and, in my opinion, is referable to the central European form, *Certhia familiaris macrodactyla*. This race of *Certhia familiaris* has not previously been recorded in Britain.

The bird was obtained during a rush of migrants in mixed deciduous woodland, and was noticeably pale in the field. Birds obtained about the same time are of the dark British race, *Certhia familiaris brittanica*.

Dr. Carmichael Low exhibited the specimen for Mr. Clancey, and also that of the Iceland Redwing, *Turdus musicus coburni* Sharpe, described in the 'Bulletin' last October (lxii. 1941, p. 18).

A new Race of Brown-chested Alethe from Tanganyika Territory.

Mr. R. E. Moreau sent the following new race for exhibition :—

Alethe poliocephala ufipæ, subsp. nov.

Description.—Resembling *A. p. kungwensis* Moreau (Bull. B. O. C. lxi. 1941, p. 46) in its dusky olive head and its large size ; but with the red-brown of the upper parts paler, agreeing with *Alethe poliocephala carruthersi* O.-Grant in this respect.

Distribution.—Mbisi Forest, east of Sumbawanga, and on the scarp, *ca.* 8000 ft., overlooking Lake Rukwa from the south.

Type.—In the British Museum. Female adult. Mbisi Forest, June 16, 1941, *ca.* 8000 ft. Collected by Salimu Asmani for R. E. Moreau. Collector's no. 5487.

Measurements of type.—Wing 97, culmen from base 20, tail 65, tarsus 30 mm.

Remarks.—An immature male (wing 100, tail 62 mm.) shows the same characters when compared with *A. p. kungwensis* in the same stage of immaturity. This further extension of the range of the species south and east brings it to within about 150 miles of the locality of *Alethe fülleborni fülleborni* Reichenow.

A new Race of the Smaller Striped Swallow from the Sudan.

Captain C. H. B. Grant and Major C. W. Mackworth-Praed exhibited and described the following new race :—

Hirundo abyssinica bannermani, subsp. nov.

Description.—Above similar to *Hirundo abyssinica abyssinica* Guérin, but below striping much finer and narrower than

in the typical race or in *Hirundo abyssinica puella* Temminck & Schlegel, thus giving the underside a paler appearance.

Distribution.—Darfur area, western Sudan.

Type.—In the British Museum. Male adult. Aribo Valley, Darfur, western Sudan, May 21, 1921; collected by Rear-Admiral Lynes. Collector's no. 1514. Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1922.12.8.721.

Measurements of type.—Wing 99, culmen from base 9, tail 78, tarsus 13 mm.

Remarks.—In 'The Ibis', 1925, p. 128, Rear-Admiral Lynes refers his specimens to *Hirundo puella puella*; but Dr. D. A. Bannerman, when compiling his vol. v. (1939) of the Bds. of Trop. W. Africa, left a note in with these specimens drawing our attention to the possibility of their representing a new race. Named in honour of Dr. D. A. Bannerman. Six specimens examined.

The Introduction of the Indian House-Crow into Port Sudan.

Mr. N. B. Kinnear communicated the following note :—

In November last, Major R. E. Cheesman sent an example of a Crow from Port Sudan which he thought resembled the Indian House-Crow, with certain differences. The specimen, however, turns out to be the typical race of the Indian House-Crow, *Corvus splendens splendens*, but rather a dark specimen, though by no means as dark as the Ceylon race, *C. s. protegatus*.

The interest in this bird lies in the fact that a short time before sending the specimen home, Major Cheesman heard from Mr. E. O. Springfield, O.B.E., M.C., the Commissioner at Port Sudan, that there was a flourishing colony of these Crows breeding in a big iron bridge near the harbour, and accordingly asked Mr. Springfield for specimens. Although Major Cheesman has often visited Port Sudan, he has never noticed the birds. How long this colony has been established it is not possible to say, but it is important that its existence be put on record.

We have examples of the typical form of the Indian House-Crow from Muscat, but whether the birds still continue to

breed there or not I do not know. It was introduced into Aden many years ago, but did not long survive; it was also introduced into Zanzibar in the early nineties, and is well established.

When Hume visited the Laccadives in 1875 he found the House-Crow was well established on certain of the islands. He remarks that "the pale collar is ill-marked, and one or two specimens recall *insolens* of Burmah." We have three of Hume's skins, two adults and a juvenile, which are typical *C. s. splendens*. The juvenile in no way differs from a Bombay skin, but in that plumage it is always darker than the adult.

From the Maldives we also have three skins which were collected by Captain Southern, R.N., in 1933, and these birds have, I think, been introduced from Ceylon, where the indigenous race lacks the pale collar and is darker below, and goes by the name of *C. s. protegatus*.

Specimens of the different races were shown.

Common Bittern from Nigeria.

Mr. N. B. Kinnear communicated the following note :—

A short time ago Mr. L. H. Brown, of the Agricultural Department, Ilorin, Nigeria, sent a skin of a Bittern to the Museum, with the suggestion that it was the typical species. After the skin had been made up, Captain C. H. B. Grant and I compared it, and without doubt it has proved to be the typical form, *Botaurus stellaris stellaris*, which has not been recorded before from West Africa. Chapin mentions a specimen shot by a native hunter at Naipu, some 160 miles N.E. of Stanleyville, in the Congo, and this appears to be the most southerly record. Further east the Bittern has not been seen south of Kordofan or Abyssinia.

A number of specimens were exhibited to show the difference in the two forms, the Common Bittern and the Cape Bittern (*B. s. capensis*). It will at once be noticed that the latter is much darker on the back, and the black centres to the feathers are broader. The supposed difference is the barring of the primaries, which neither Captain Grant nor myself found to be a constant character.

On the Races of the Rock-Pipit in Western Europe.

Mr. P. A. Clancey sent the following communication, with specimens for exhibition :—

An eminent British ornithologist once stated that he considered *Anthus spinoletta meinertzhageni* E. G. Bird one of the best of the Hebridean races. It was, therefore, with some surprise that early in 1942 I found that I could not separate *Anthus spinoletta meinertzhageni* satisfactorily from *Anthus spinoletta kleinschmidti* Hartert, described from the Faroe Islands.

Very extensive material in the British Museum, and in the private collections of Colonel R. Meinertzhagen and Dr. James M. Harrison has led me to recognize the western European races of the Rock-Pipit enumerated below.

Anthus spinoletta kleinschmidti Hartert.

Anthus spinoletta kleinschmidti Hartert, Die Vög. Pal. Fauna, Band 1, 1903–10, p. 284 : Faroe Islands ; of which *Anthus spinoletta meinertzhageni* E. G. Bird, Bull. B. O. C. lvi. 1936, p. 55 : South Uist, Outer Hebrides, Scotland, is a synonym.

Range.—Faroe Islands; Scotland: specimens examined from Shetlands, Orkneys, Ross, Argyll, Wigtown, Berwick, Ayr, Dumbarton, Midlothian, North and South Uist.

Anthus spinoletta petrosus (Montagu).

Alauda petrosa Montagu, Trans. Linn. Soc. iv. 1798, p. 41 : Wales.

Range.—England, Wales, and Ireland (birds from western Ireland examined), Channel Islands, N.W. France (birds from Ushant, Finistère, France, are rather paler than most examples of *Anthus s. petrosus*). No comparable material from Norway available for examination, and I do not intend to place the Norwegian bird at the present moment.

Anthus spinoletta littoralis Brehm.

Anthus littoralis Brehm, Handb. Naturg. Vög. Deutschl. 1831, p. 331 : Danish islands.

Range.—Coasts of Denmark, Sweden, N. Finland, and N. Russia.

Anthus spinoletta hesperianus, subsp. nov.

Description.—Differs from *Anthus spinoletta kleinschmidti* Hartert by being very much darker in colour on the upper surface. Striæ of breast and flanks extremely dark. Wings and tail darker, and general tone very rich.

Distribution.—Apparently confined to Arran, west Scotland. Birds from the Ayrshire mainland (Largs, 1935) and Argyllshire are referable to *Anthus spinoletta kleinschmidti*.

Type.—Female adult. Blackwaterfoot, Arran, west Scotland, August 14, 1940. In my collection. Thirteen specimens examined.

Remarks.—It is not generally known that the climate of western Arran is extremely mild and damp. Palms, eucalyptus trees and other exotic plants thrive there.

Notes on Eastern African Birds.

Captain C. H. B. Grant and Major C. W. Mackworth-Praed sent the following eight notes :—

(1) On the Conspecific Status of *Budytes flava* (Linnæus), *Budytes luteus* (Gmelin) and *Budytes feldegg* (Michahelles).

Practically all authors place these three Wagtails in one group, together with all the recognized races. Grote, however, in O. M. 1937, p. 163, clearly shows that there is a considerable overlap of breeding distribution between *B. flava* and *B. luteus* from the Volga to the Irtish, and between the grey-headed and black-headed birds in the Black, Caspian and Aral Seas area.

In the former he gives the choice between *B. flava* and *B. luteus* being different species or mutants of the same species. We accept Grote's suggestion of there being two species, one grey-headed with its races, and one green-headed with one race, and that *B. flava* and *B. feldegg* must also be treated as different species.

As regards the species occurring in Eastern Africa, we have adopted the following arrangement :—

Budytes flava flava (Linnæus).
,, ,, *thunbergi* (Billberg).
,, ,, *cinereocapilla* (Savi).

Budytes flava beema Sykes.
„ „ *dombrowskii* Tschusi.
„ *luteus luteus* (Gmelin).
„ „ *flavissima* (Blyth).
„ *feldegg feldegg* (Michahelles).
„ „ *kaleniczenkii* (Kaleniczenko).

(2) On *Apalis alticola* (Shelley).

In the Bull. B. O. C. lxi. 1941, p. 64, the distribution of *Apalis alticola brunneiceps* (Reichenow) should have included the Oldeani and Mbulu areas of north-eastern Tanganyika Territory.

(3) On the Races of *Calamonastes simplex* (Cabanis) and the Status of *Calamonastes simplex neglectus* Benson.

Mr. R. E. Moreau having recently sent to the British Museum two specimens from the Mbisi Forest, near Sumbawanga, Ufipa Plateau, south-western Tanganyika Territory, has raised the question of the distribution of the races of this species, and our examination of the series in the National Collection shows that two other species should be placed under this heading, making four races, as follows :—

Calamonastes simplex simplex (Cab.).

Thamnobia simplex Cabanis, J. f. O. 1878, pp. 205 and 221 : Ndi, Taita district, south-eastern Kenya Colony.

Distribution.—Central Abyssinia and British Somaliland to Uganda, Kenya Colony, southern Italian Somaliland, southern Tanganyika Territory from south-east corner of Lake Natron to Pangani.

Calamonastes simplex undosa (Reichw.).

Drymoica undosa Reichenow, J. f. O. 1882, p. 211 : Kakoma, Tabora district, west-central Tanganyika Territory.

Distribution.—South-western Kenya Colony and Tanganyika Territory from southern end of Lake Victoria to Tabora, Iringa and the Ufipa Plateau.

Calamonastes simplex cinereus Reichw.

Calamonastes cinereus Reichenow, J. f. O. 1887, p. 215 Leopoldsville, Belgian Congo.

Distribution.—The lower Congo Basin and Loango to Lunda district, north-eastern Angola, and Chikapa, Kasai district, south-western Belgian Congo.

CALAMONASTES SIMPLEX KATANGÆ Neave.

Calamonastes katangæ Neave, Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist. (8) iv. 1909, p. 130 : Lufupa River, western tributary of Lualaba, Belgian Congo–north-western Northern Rhodesia boundary.

Distribution.—The Katanga area of the Belgian Congo and Northern Rhodesia.

We have re-examined the type of *Calamonastes simplex neglectus* Benson, and agree with Benson, Ibis, 1940, p. 620, that this specimen is really *Calamonastes fasciolatus stierlingi* Reichenow, as a careful comparison shows that it only differs from that race in being more dusky on the lower neck and chest.

If we remember rightly, Benson was originally of the opinion that it was a *C. fasciolatus*, and not a *C. simplex*, and there appears little doubt that he was right.

(4) On *Riparia riparia fuscocollaris* Tschusi, Orn. Jahrb. xxiii. 1912, p. 216 : Castelnuovo, Dalmatia.

This race is given as darker, especially the chest-band. Two specimens are enumerated, and are said to be passage migrants (April), and the possible breeding area is given as Herzegovina.

Van Someren, Nov. Zool. xxix. 1922, p. 89, has brought this name into eastern Africa on finding some migrants darker than others, and infers that the breeding area is Turkestan, but the Turkestan bird was named *Clivicola bilkewitschi* by Sarudny, O. M. 1910, p. 147, which name is now placed as a synonym of *R. r. diluta* Sharpe & Wyatt, Mon. Hirund. i. 1893, p. 63 : Badam River, near Tchemkent.

An examination of specimens from England shows that they are not constant in tone, both dark and light adults being found ; and we agree with Meinertzhagen, Nicoll's Bds. Egypt, i. 1930, p. 312, that *R. r. fuscocollaris* is merely an individual variation of *R. r. riparia* Linnæus. *R. r. fusco-collaris* Tschusi cannot therefore be admitted to the Eastern

African list, and has been correctly placed as a synonym of *R. r. riparia* by Meinertzhagen.

(5) On the Specific Status of *Dicrurus adsimilis* (Bechstein) and *Dicrurus modestus* Hartlaub.

In the Bull. B. O. C. liii. 1933, p. 177, Bates unites these two under *Dicrurus adsimilis*, and this is followed by Bannerman, Bds. Trop. W. Afr. v. 1939, p. 331.

Sclater, Syst. Av. Æthiop. ii. 1930, p. 594, and Jackson's Bds. Kenya Colony & Uganda, iii. 1938, pp. 1170–1171, has treated them as separate species. This latter arrangement is the correct one, as both are found in Uganda and western Kenya Colony. It would appear that Bates did not study the distribution of *Dicrurus modestus* east of the Cameroons.

(6) On the exact Type-locality of *Dicrurus adsimilis* (Bechstein), Latham, Allgem. Ueb. Vög. ii. 1794, p. 362.

In the above work Bechstein gives only South Africa, and also in Kurze, Ueb. 1812, p. 117. Lichtenstein, Cat. Rer. Nat. Hamb. 1793, p. 10, no. 99, under his *Corvus afer*, gives South Africa. This general type-locality is also given by Sclater, Syst. Av. Æthiop. ii. 1930, p. 594. Levaillant, Ois d'Afr. pl. 167, 1805, under his " Le Drongeau ", states that he first saw this bird at Duywens-hock River. We can therefore fix the exact type-locality of *Dicrurus adsimilis* (Bechstein) as Duywens-hock River, southern Cape Province.

(7) On the Eastern African Races of *Dicrurus ludwigii* (Smith).

Our examination of the series in the British Museum shows that three races can be recognized, as follows :—

Dicrurus ludwigii ludwigii (Smith).

Edolius ludwigii A. Smith, S. Afr. Quart. Journ. ser. 2, 1834, p. 144 : Durban, Natal, South Africa.

Tail square, smaller, more glossy blue-black than *Dicrurus adsimilis adsimilis* (Bechst.), and inner webs to flight-feathers blackish, not ashy. Female is duller, and below slaty, with only a faint gloss. Wing 97 to 107 mm. Thirty specimens examined.

Distribution.—South-eastern Belgian Congo, north-eastern Northern Rhodesia, and southern Nyasaland to eastern Southern Rhodesia, Portuguese East Africa, eastern Transvaal, Zululand and Natal.

Dicrurus ludwigii münzneri Reichw.

Dicrurus münzneri Reichenow, O. M. 1915, p. 91 : Sanyi, Mahenge district, south-eastern Tanganyika Territory.

Brighter and more glossy than *D. l. ludwigii*. Female more glossy below, especially on chest, than *D. l. ludwigii*. Wing 99 to 110 mm. Four specimens examined.

Distribution.—Southern Italian Somaliland to eastern Kenya Colony and eastern Tanganyika Territory from the Juba River to Mahenge.

Note.—Sclater, Syst. Av. Æthiop. ii. 1930, p. 594, has placed this race as a probable synonym of *Dicrurus adsimilis*.

Dicrurus ludwigii elgonensis van Som.

Dicrurus elgonensis van Someren, Bull. B. O. C. xl. 1920, p. 95 : Lerundo (Nyarondo), near Yala River, western Kenya Colony.

Generally duller, less glossy velvety black than *D. l. ludwigii* or *D. l. münzneri*. Wing 104 to 109 mm. Three specimens examined.

Distribution.—Sudan and north-eastern Belgian Congo to Uganda and western Kenya Colony.

Note.—One of these three specimens examined has been recorded in ' Sudan Notes and Records ' as *Dicrurus sharpei* Oustalet.

(8) On the Type-locality of *Prionops poliocephala* (Stanley).

In ' The Ibis,' 1936, p. 170, Cheesman and Sclater suggest the possibility of Salt having obtained his specimen in Abyssinia, but we would point out that Salt did not cross to the western side of the Tacazze River, and his farthest south in Abyssinia was Zingilla (11° 25′ N. lat.), near the headwaters of the Tacazze.

Major Cheesman's specimen is from N.W. Abyssinia (Gandwa, on the Lake Tana—Gallabat road), and until specimens are found east of the Tacazze River it would be better to leave

the type-locality as fixed by Neumann, *i. e.*, Mozambique, northern Portuguese East Africa.

Deposition of Cuckoo's Egg in Reed-Warbler's Nest.

Dr. N. H. Joy gave an interesting talk on the manner in which the Cuckoo deposits her egg in the Reed-Warbler's nest. By close-up studies he watched a bird laying its egg in such a nest, and was able to see the exact position of its feet and body while doing so. He described the action in detail and showed illustrations of it taken from his hide 6 feet away from the nest. It is certainly remarkable that a bird of the size of a Cuckoo should be able to deposit an egg in such a flimsy nest without damaging it or the eggs contained inside it. Dr. Joy's observations, however, clear up the matter, and show how it is actually done.

NOTICE.

The next Meeting of the Club, a combined one with the British Ornithologists' Union, will be held at the Rembrandt Hotel, Thurloe Place, S.W. 7, on Saturday, June 6, 1942, immediately after the Annual General Meeting of the Union, which will take place at 2.30 p.m. Owing to Government restrictions, no public luncheons are now allowed. Members attending may have tea, however, after the Meeting.

A film by Mr. Lack of the Galapagos Islands will be shown, and slides if available.

Members intending to be present should notify the Secretary of the Union (not the Secretary of the Club) as soon as possible after receiving the usual post-card which is being sent out by the Union.

Bird Room.

13 JUL 1942
PURCHASED

BULLETIN

OF THE

BRITISH ORNITHOLOGISTS' CLUB.

No. CCCCXLIII.

The four-hundred-and-thirty-eighth Meeting of the Club was held at the Rembrandt Hotel, Thurloe Place, S.W. 7, on Saturday, June 6, 1942, following the Annual General Meeting of the British Ornithologists' Union, held in the same place, at 2.30 P.M.

Dr. PERCY R. LOWE, the President, took the chair at the Union Meeting, and Dr. A. LANDSBOROUGH THOMSON at the Club Meeting which followed.

Members of the Union present:—Lt.-Col. F. M. BAILEY; Mrs. E. C. BARNES; A. G. BENNETT; H. G. CALKIN; J. CHEAR; E. COHEN; Mrs. RAIT KERR; Miss F. PITT; L. SERGENT.

Members of the Club present:—Dr. D. A. BANNERMAN; Miss P. BARCLAY-SMITH; Miss M. G. BEST; Major A. W. BOYD; H. P. O. CLEAVE; J. FISHER; Miss E. M. GODMAN; Capt. C. H. B. GRANT (*Vice-Chairman*); Dr. E. HOPKINSON; C. INGRAM; Dr. N. H. JOY; N. B. KINNEAR (*Hon. Sec.*); D. LACK; Miss E. P. LEACH; Miss C. LONGFIELD; Dr. CARMICHAEL LOW (*Editor*); Dr. P. R. LOWE; Sir P. H. MANSON-BAHR; Col. R. MEINERTZHAGEN; T. H. NEWMAN; Mrs. J. B. PRIESTLEY; D. SETH-SMITH; Dr. A. LANDSBOROUGH THOMSON (*Chairman*); B. W. TUCKER (*Vice-Chairman*); Mrs. W. BOYD WATT; H. WHISTLER; H. F. WITHERBY.

Guests:—Mrs. H. CALKIN; Capt. A. CARDWELL; R. CARDWELL; Mrs. J. CHEAR; Miss C. CROMPTON; R. S. R. FITTER;

E. Flack ; Lt. Z. Godyn ; Miss A. A. Grant ; Miss L. P. Grant ; A. Grayson ; N. Grayson ; Mrs. S. Lloyd ; Miss M. Penrose ; Miss C. Popham ; Miss M. S. Priestley ; Miss B. N. Solly ; E. C. Taylor ; Mrs. A. Landsborough Thomson ; Mr. and Mrs. Whitaker ; Mrs. H. F. Witherby.

Members of the Union, 9 ; Members of the Club, 27 ; Guests, 22 ; Total, 58.

No Meeting of the Club took place in May.

A Film of the Galapagos Islands.

Mr. David Lack showed the film taken in the Galapagos Island when he, with Mr. L. S. V. Venables and Mr. W. H. Thompson, was there in 1939. Mr. Lack gave a brief account of the expedition at a Meeting of the Club on Wednesday, January 10, 1940 (Bull. B. O. C. lx. 1940, pp. 46–50), and as space will not permit of reprinting this now, members of the Club should refresh their memories by consulting this paper again. Through a misunderstanding the film was not available for that Meeting.

Though there was a description of each of the views on the screen Mr. Lack was able to supplement this by an interesting talk as the film proceeded. Not only were the birds shown, but also the giant tortoises, lizards, seals and other inhabitants of these unique islands. The different forms of the *Geospizinæ* were shown in detail and how they had diverged from each other. As the author said in his paper in the 'Bulletin', "The *Geospizinæ* present many puzzles for the taxonomist". Perhaps the most interesting to all present was the picture of *Cactospiza pallida*, one of these Finches, holding a cactus spine lengthwise in its beak and inserting it into a crevice in a tree to drive out an insect. As Mr. Lack says, this seems one of the few recorded instances of the use of tools in the animal kingdom, outside man.

The enthusiastic applause which greeted the termination of the film showed how much the audience had enjoyed it. It was certainly a great treat to be able to see living pictures of such a wonderful part of the globe as the Galapagos Islands.

Notes on Eastern African Birds.

Captain C. H. B. Grant and Major C. W. Mackworth-Praed sent the following note :—

On the Occurrence of *Riparia cincta cincta* (Boddaert) in Eastern Africa during the Non-breeding Season.

We know that this race breeds in South Africa as far north as Southern Rhodesia between August and March (see Sclater, Fauna S. Afr., Aves, ii. 1901, p. 285, and Priest, Bds. S. Rhodesia, iii. 1935, p. 311). Bannerman, Bds. Trop. W. Afr. v. 1939, p. 278, states that he has examined specimens from South Africa between October and April and from West Africa between July and October.

As regards the breeding colony of a Swallow recorded by Bannerman as having been seen by Dr. Hopkinson on the Gambia River, we should not at present take this into consideration, as this colony may prove to be a local resident race of a species other than *R. c. cincta*, and even if it does prove to be this species, it will not affect the possibility that the South African breeding bird spends the non-breeding season in West Africa.

The small series available of this species from eastern Africa shows the following facts :—

Riparia cincta suahelica van Someren breeds from March to June, young birds are on the wing in June and July, and adults are found moulting in June and December (Brit. Mus. Reg. nos. 1906.12.23.1594, from south-eastern Ruwenzori, completing the moult, and 1923.8.7.4060, from south-western Ankole, starting the moult).

This race is easily distinguished by its comparatively much darker coloration above.

It is with the specimens of *Riparia cincta erlangeri* Reichenow that confusion with *R. c. cincta* may exist ; but it is known that *R. c. erlangeri* breeds from April to July and adults are in worn dress in July to September (Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1915. 12.24.1403 and 1404, from Mongalla), and are in moult in October (Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1887.9.28.165, from Wadelai),

birds in fresh or fresher plumage being found from February to May.

It is therefore shown that *R. c. cincta* would be in worn plumage at the end of the breeding season, *i. e.* April, and are moulting in their non-breeding quarters in July (Brit. Mus. Reg. no. 1911.12.23.1278, from Shari River); whereas *R. c. erlangeri* is worn in July to September and is moulting in October. All the specimens we have been able to examine from Abyssinia and the Sudan agree with the above data and are, therefore, *R. c. erlangeri*, and we have not been able to find one specimen that falls in with the data of *R. c. cincta*.

It would therefore appear that *R. c. cincta* does not visit eastern Africa in the non-breeding season, but that it spends this season in West and Central Africa from Principé Island to the Shari River, French Equatorial Africa.

A new Race of Wren (Troglodytes) from the Western Palæarctic Region.

Mr. P. A. Clancey sent the following note :—

A critical examination of a very extensive material from the western Palæarctic Region has shown that the Wren from Ushant is new to science, and for it I propose the name :—

Troglodytes troglodytes meinertzhageni, subsp. nov.

Description.—When compared with *Troglodytes troglodytes kabylorum* Hartert, the underside is noticeably richer and the flanks are slightly more heavily barred. On the underside *T. t. meinertzhageni* approaches *T. t. troglodytes*, but the barring of the flanks is generally more pronounced. Upper surface near to *T. t. kabylorum*, but decidedly pale sandy red and not so olive in tone. Compared with *T. t. troglodytes* the pale red sand-colour as opposed to warm brown is diagnostic. (Five specimens examined.)

Range.—Confined to Ushant, Finistère, France.

Type.—Male adult. Sept. 26, 1933. Ushant, Finistère, France. In the Meinertzhagen collection.

Material examined.—*T. t. troglodytes*, very large series from Sweden, France, Germany, Holland, Belgium, Italy, Switzer-

land and south-eastern England. *T. t. indigenus*, large series. *T. t. hebridensis*, series. *T. t. zetlandicus*, series. *T. t. hirtensis*, two examined. *T. t. bergensis*, one examined. *T. t. kabylorum*, series. *T. t. cypriotes*, one examined. *T. t. weigoldi* von Jordans, from Portugal, not examined, but this race is described as being darker and more heavily marked than the typical bird, whereas *T. t. meinertzhageni* is paler and quite sand-coloured above, and only slightly more heavily barred on the flanks. *T. t. borealis*, *T. t. islandicus*, *T. t. koenigi* and other races described from the western Palæarctic Region not examined.

Corrigendum to Volume LXII.

P. 33, line 16. "South end of Lake Nyasa" *should read* "South end of Lake Tanganyika".

NOTICE.

The next Meeting of the Club will be held in October, after the Annual General Meeting. Members will be notified of the date, place and time when the notices and agenda for this are sent out.

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